



RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT

Tuesday, 30 April 2019

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TUESDAY, 30 APRIL 2019



The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.

Mr Speaker (Hon. Curtis Pitt, Mulgrave) read prayers and took the chair.

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I respectfully acknowledge that we are sitting today on the land of Aboriginal people and pay my respects to elders past and present. I thank them, as First Australians, for their careful custodianship of the land over countless generations. We are very fortunate in this country to have two of the world's oldest continuing living cultures in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples whose lands, winds and waters we all now share.

ASSENT TO BILLS



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I have to report that I have received from His Excellency the Governor a letter in respect of assent to certain bills. The contents of the letter will be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the letter for the information of members.

The Honourable C.W. Pitt MP

Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

Parliament House

George Street

BRISBANE QLD 4000

I hereby acquaint the Legislative Assembly that the following Bills, having been passed by the Legislative Assembly and having been presented for the Royal Assent, were assented to in the name of Her Majesty The Queen on the date shown:

Date of Assent: 11 April 2019

A Bill for an Act to amend the Government Owned Corporations Act 1993, the Guardianship and Administration Act 2000, the Integrity Act 2009, the Powers of Attorney Act 1998, the Public Guardian Act 2014 and the Public Interest Disclosure Act 2010 for particular purposes

A Bill for an Act to amend the Bail Act 1980, the Corrective Services Act 2006, the Penalties and Sentences Act 1992 and the Youth Justice Act 1992 for particular purposes

A Bill for an Act to amend the Biosecurity Act 2014, the Building Act 1975, the Building Queensland Act 2015, the Coastal Protection and Management Act 1995, the Economic Development Act 2012, the Environmental Protection Act 1994, the Exhibited Animals Act 2015, the Housing Act 2003, the Land Valuation Act 2010, the Liquor Act 1992, the Neighbourhood Disputes (Dividing Fences and Trees) Act 2011, the Planning Act 2016, the Planning and Environment Court Act 2016, the Queensland Reconstruction Authority Act 2011, the Sanctuary Cove Resort Act 1985, the South Bank Corporation Act 1989, the South-East Queensland Water (Distribution and Retail Restructuring) Act 2009 and the legislation mentioned in schedule 1 for particular purposes, and to repeal the Southern Moreton Bay Islands Development Entitlements Protection Act 2004

A Bill for an Act to amend the Civil Proceedings Act 2011, the Fair Trading Act 1989, the Motor Dealers and Chattel Auctioneers Act 2014, the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 2009, the Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation Act 2008 and the Supreme Court of Queensland Act 1991 for particular purposes

A Bill for an Act to amend the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 2003, the Coroners Act 2003, the Cremations Act 2003, the Duties Act 2001, the Health Act 1937, the Public Health Act 2005, the Radiation Safety Act 1999, the Retirement Villages Act 1999 and the Transplantation and Anatomy Act 1979 for particular purposes, and to repeal the Public Health (Medicinal Cannabis) Act 2016

These Bills are hereby transmitted to the Legislative Assembly, to be numbered and forwarded to the proper Officer for enrolment, in the manner required by law.

Yours sincerely

Governor

11 April 2019

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 11 April 2019, from His Excellency the Governor to the Speaker, Hon. Curtis Pitt, advising of assent to certain bills on 11 April 2019 [\[627\]](#).

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Heart Week



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, we are now in Heart Week, which runs from 28 April to 4 May. As part of this year's activities the Heart Foundation is encouraging everyone to consider the health benefits of a heart check. Regular heart checks are important so that we are aware of our risk of heart disease.

Today the Heart Foundation will be providing honourable members with information on what heart health checks involve, who should have a heart health check and why, and steps people can take to reduce their risk of developing heart disease. I encourage all members to stop by the Undumbi Room between 11.30 and 2.30 to receive an information pack from the Heart Foundation and have a confidential blood pressure check. Some members may wish to wait a few minutes after question time finishes before getting their blood pressure checks.

REPORT

Auditor-General



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I have to report that I have received from the Auditor-General report No. 16 of 2018-19 titled *Follow-up of maintenance of public schools*. I table the report for the information of members.

Tabled paper. Auditor-General of Queensland: Report to Parliament No. 16: 2018-19—Follow-up of maintenance of public schools [628].

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

School Group Tour



Mr SPEAKER: I wish to advise members that we will be visited in the gallery this morning by students and teachers from Narangba Valley State School in the electorate of Kurwongbah.

PETITIONS

The Clerk presented the following e-petitions, sponsored by the honourable members indicated—

Moggill District Sports Park, Bus Services

Dr Rowan, from 236 petitioners, requesting the House to extend the 444 TransLink Bus Service from its current Moggill Terminus to the now-open Moggill District Sports Park at 3660 Moggill Road [629].

Autism Behavioural Intervention Queensland

Dr Rowan, from 415 petitioners, requesting the House to provide support to keep open the parent-run charity Autism Behavioural Intervention Queensland ABIQ [630].

Mackay and Isaac, River Improvement Trust

Mr Andrew, from 122 petitioners, requesting the House to reinstate river improvement trust in Mackay and Isaac Regional Council local government areas [631].

The Clerk presented the following e-petitions, sponsored by the Clerk—

Local Government, Commission of Inquiry

From 1,150 petitioners, requesting the House to call a Commission of Inquiry into corruption within Queensland Local Government procurements, contracts and development approvals [632].

Broadway Hotel

From 2,144 petitioners, requesting the House to establish a regulation with the Brisbane City Council to ensure cultural heritage protection and to issue a repair and maintenance notice for the Broadway Hotel [633].

Organisations, Hiring Rights

From 304 petitioners, requesting the House to affirm the freedom of organisations formed specifically to promote a particular worldview to only employ staff holding to that particular worldview be maintained and commit to it in legal practice [634].

Wulff, Mr C

From 380 petitioners, requesting the House to appeal the sentence for former Ipswich City Council CEO, Mr Wulff, under s669A of Criminal Code 1899 [\[635\]](#).

Residential Properties, Pollution

From 123 petitioners, requesting the House to amend the Clean Air Act 1963 to eliminate any smoke and fume pollution emitting from residential premises with a land block size of less than 800 square metres [\[636\]](#).

Deebing Creek Mission Site

From 7,068 petitioners, requesting the House to establish a Commission of Inquiry to inquire into and report on the process that led to the transfer of title of the Deebing Mission site from its use for traditional owners to foreign owned developers [\[637\]](#).

NDIS, Taxi Subsidy Scheme and Lift Payment

From 5,649 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure the Taxi Subsidy Scheme and Lift Payment for Queensland National Disability Insurance Scheme participants does not end on 30 June 2019 [\[638\]](#).

Petitions received.

TABLED PAPERS**PAPERS TABLED DURING THE RECESS (SO 31)**

The Clerk informed the House that the following papers, received during the recess, were tabled on the dates indicated—

5 April 2019—

[554](#) Innovation, Tourism Development and Environment Committee: Report No. 15, 56th Parliament, April 2019—Subordinate legislation tabled between 8 February 2019 and 12 February 2019

[555](#) Transport and Public Works Committee: Report No. 19, 56th Parliament, April 2019—Transport Legislation (Road Safety and Other Matters) Amendment Bill 2019

[556](#) Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996: Drug Therapy Protocol—Pharmacist Vaccination Program

8 April 2019—

[557](#) Final response from the Premier and Minister for Trade (Hon. Palaszczuk), to an ePetition (2894-18) sponsored by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(4), from 398 petitioners, requesting the House to consider amending the Criminal Code Act 1899 (Qld) to include the following offences: cyber-bullying, bullying which results in psychological and self-harm and inciting suicide; and amend the Education (General Provisions) Act 2006 and the Commonwealth Criminal Code Act 1995 to include bullying as a form of unacceptable behaviour punishable in accordance with the Acts. Such amendments to be known as Breannah's Law

9 April 2019—

[558](#) Commissioner for Mine Safety and Health—Annual performance report 2017-18: Erratum

12 April 2019—

[559](#) Economics and Governance Committee: Report No. 24, 56th Parliament, April 2019: Police Service Administration (Discipline Reform) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019

16 April 2019—

[560](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 35, 56th Parliament, April 2019—Criminal Code and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019

[561](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 36, 56th Parliament, April 2019—Criminal Code and Other Legislation (Mason Jett Lee) Amendment Bill 2019

[562](#) Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee: Report No. 12, 56th government response

[563](#) Response from the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs (Hon. Hinchliffe), to an ePetition (3063-18) sponsored by the member for Hervey Bay, Mr Sorensen, from 505 petitioners requesting the House to introduce an amendment to the Local Government Act 2009 that prevents the engagement of private companies by local governments for staff management

17 April 2019—

[564](#) Report by the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning (Hon. Dick), pursuant to section 103 of the Planning Act 2016, in relation to the Ministerial Call In of a development application for the Esplanade Jewel Development at Bargara Made by Saunders Havill Group on behalf of Esplanade Jewel Pty Ltd

[565](#) Report by the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning (Hon. Dick): Minister's decision on a change to a previous ministerial development approval under the Planning Act 2016 for the proposed mixed-use development at Bargara—copy of the decision notice

18 April 2019—

[566](#) Education, Employment and Small Business Committee: Report No. 16, 56th Parliament, April 2019—Health and Wellbeing Queensland Bill 2019

- [567](#) State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee: Report No. 26, 56th Parliament, April 2019—Mineral Resources (Galilee Basin) Amendment Bill 2018
- [568](#) State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee: Report No. 27, 56th Parliament, April 2019—Natural Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019
- [569](#) State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee: Report No. 28, 56th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 14 November 2018 and 12 February 2019

23 April 2019—

- [570](#) Response from the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy (Hon. Dr Lynham), to an ePetition (3005-18) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 253 petitioners, requesting the House to have the responsibility, burden of proof of correct land valuation placed on the Valuer-General and not on the property/land owners
- [571](#) Overseas Travel Report: Report on trade and investment mission to South Korea by the Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development (Hon. Fentiman), 17-23 March 2019

24 April 2019—

- [572](#) Response from the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries (Hon. Furner), to a paper petition (3102-19) presented by the member for Hill, Mr Knuth, from 79 petitioners, requesting the House to reverse the government's decision to close agricultural colleges in Longreach and Emerald at the end of 2019

26 April 2019—

- [573](#) Innovation, Tourism Development and Environment Committee: Report No. 16, 56th Parliament, April 2019—Environmental Protection (Great Barrier Reef Protection Measures) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019
- [574](#) Response from the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services (Hon. Dr Miles), to a paper petition (3107-19) presented by the member for Moggill, Dr Rowan and an ePetition (3071-19) sponsored by the member for Moggill, Dr Rowan, from 177 and 1,866 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to support a pill testing trial in Queensland
- [575](#) Response from the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries (Hon. Furner), to an ePetition (3057-18), sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 387 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure the RSPCA Queensland cannot continue to report to themselves and the need to be recognised as a business and become accountable like any other business in Queensland
- [576](#) Response from the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries (Hon. Furner), to a paper petition (3104-19) presented by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(3), from 360 petitioners, requesting the House to include the Bufo Marinus (cane toad) on the declared pest list
- [577](#) Response from the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries (Hon. Furner), to an ePetition (3027-18) sponsored by the member for Mirani, Mr Andrew, from 953 petitioners, requesting the House to review the effects on native wildlife from the improper use of opera house style fishing pots/traps
- [578](#) Response from the Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts (Hon. Enoch), to an ePetition (3052-18), sponsored by the member for Maiwar, Mr Berkman, from 404 petitioners, requesting the House to prevent the proposed demolition of structures known collectively as the University of Queensland Union Complex
- [579](#) Response from the Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts (Hon. Enoch), to a paper petition (3105-19) presented by the member for Burnett, Mr Bennett and an ePetition (3074-19) sponsored by the member for Burnett, Mr Bennett, from 2,152 and 1,781 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to remove the consideration of converting the zoning of the current Baffle Creek catchment to marine national park or green zone question from the Great Sandy Marine Park Zoning Review survey
- [580](#) Response from the Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts (Hon. Enoch), to a paper petition (3106-19) presented by the member for Whitsunday, Mr Costigan and an ePetition (3097-19) sponsored by the member for Whitsunday, Mr Costigan, from 995 and 1,094 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to stop the Whitsunday Regional Council from demolishing the Wilson Beach swimming enclosure and either repair or replace the current facility
- [581](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3049-18) sponsored by the member for Maroochydore, Ms Simpson, from 397 petitioners, requesting the House to deliver a better public transport system for the Sunshine Coast
- [582](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to a paper Petition (3103-19) presented by the member for Pumicestone, Mrs Wilson, from 185 petitioners, requesting the House to provide a bike path from the roundabout on Beachmere Road to Newman Road, Beachmere

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

The following statutory instruments were tabled by the Clerk—

Health Act 1937, Health Ombudsman Act 2013, Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011, Private Health Facilities Act 1999, Radiation Safety Act 1999, Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1998:

- [583](#) Health Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2019, No. 40
- [584](#) Health Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2019, No. 40, explanatory notes

Plumbing and Drainage Act 2018:

[585](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 41

[586](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 41, explanatory notes

Body Corporate and Community Management Act 1997, Building Act 1975, Health Act 1937, Planning Act 2016, Plumbing and Drainage Act 2018, Queensland Building and Construction Commission Act 1991, State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999:

[587](#) Plumbing and Drainage Regulation 2019, No. 42

[588](#) Plumbing and Drainage Regulation 2019, No. 42, explanatory notes

Weapons Act 1990:

[589](#) Weapons Legislation Amendment Regulation 2019, No. 43

[590](#) Weapons Legislation Amendment Regulation 2019, No. 43, explanatory notes

Police Service Administration Act 1990:

[591](#) Police Service Administration (Approved Agencies) Amendment Regulation 2019, No. 44

[592](#) Police Service Administration (Approved Agencies) Amendment Regulation 2019, No. 44, explanatory notes

Disaster Management Act 2003:

[593](#) Disaster Management (Extension of Far North Disaster District) Amendment Regulation 2019, No. 45

[594](#) Disaster Management (Extension of Far North Disaster District) Amendment Regulation 2019, No. 45, explanatory notes

Electrical Safety Act 2002:

[595](#) Electrical Safety (Solar Farms) Amendment Regulation 2019, No. 46

[596](#) Electrical Safety (Solar Farms) Amendment Regulation 2019, No. 46, explanatory notes

Electrical Safety Act 2002, Work Health and Safety Act 2011:

[597](#) Electrical Safety (Codes of Practice) and Other Legislation (Solar Farms) Amendment Notice 2019, No. 47

[598](#) Electrical Safety (Codes of Practice) and Other Legislation (Solar Farms) Amendment Notice 2019, No. 47, explanatory notes

State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971:

[599](#) State Development and Public Works Organisation (State Development Areas) (Tropical North) Amendment Regulation 2019, No. 48

[600](#) State Development and Public Works Organisation (State Development Areas) (Tropical North) Amendment Regulation 2019, No. 48, explanatory notes

Supreme Court of Queensland Act 1991:

[601](#) Uniform Civil Procedure (Commercial Arbitration) Amendment Rule 2019, No. 49

[602](#) Uniform Civil Procedure (Commercial Arbitration) Amendment Rule 2019, No. 49, explanatory notes

Supreme Court of Queensland Act 1991:

[603](#) Uniform Civil Procedure (Service Outside Australia) Amendment Rule 2019, No. 50

[604](#) Uniform Civil Procedure (Service Outside Australia) Amendment Rule 2019, No. 50, explanatory notes

State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999, Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Act 1994, Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995, Transport Planning and Coordination Act 1994:

[605](#) Transport and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2019, No. 51

[606](#) Transport and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2019, No. 51, explanatory notes

Mineral, Water and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2018:

[607](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 52

[608](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 52, explanatory notes

Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Act 2014, Mineral Resources Act 1989, Petroleum Act 1923, Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004, Water Act 2000:

[609](#) Resources Legislation Amendment Regulation 2019, No. 53

[610](#) Resources Legislation Amendment Regulation 2019, No. 53, explanatory notes

Queensland Building and Construction Commission Act 1991:

[611](#) Queensland Building and Construction Commission (Structural Landscaping Licences) Amendment Regulation 2019, No. 54

[612](#) Queensland Building and Construction Commission (Structural Landscaping Licences) Amendment Regulation 2019, No. 54, explanatory notes

Forestry Act 1959, Nature Conservation Act 1992:

[613](#) Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2019, No. 55

[614](#) Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2019, No. 55, explanatory notes

Biosecurity Act 2014, State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999:

[615](#) Biosecurity and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2019, No. 56

[616](#) Biosecurity and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2019, No. 56, explanatory notes

Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994:

[617](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Commonwealth Scheme—North and Far North Queensland Flood Disaster) Amendment Regulation 2019, No. 57

[618](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Commonwealth Scheme—North and Far North Queensland Flood Disaster) Amendment Regulation 2019, No. 57, explanatory notes

Government Owned Corporations Act 1993:

[619](#) Government Owned Corporations (Generator Restructure—CleanCo) Regulation 2019, No. 58

[620](#) Government Owned Corporations (Generator Restructure—CleanCo) Regulation 2019, No. 58, explanatory notes

Planning Act 2016:

[621](#) Planning (Minor Changes of Use) Amendment Regulation 2019, No. 59

[622](#) Planning (Minor Changes of Use) Amendment Regulation 2019, No. 59, explanatory notes

Penalties and Sentences Act 1992:

[623](#) Penalties and Sentences (Penalty Unit Value) Amendment Regulation 2019, No. 60

[624](#) Penalties and Sentences (Penalty Unit Value) Amendment Regulation 2019, No. 60, explanatory notes

Fisheries Act 1994:

[625](#) Fisheries (Sustainability of Molluscs and Black Jewfish) Amendment Regulation 2019, No. 61

[626](#) Fisheries (Sustainability of Molluscs and Black Jewfish) Amendment Regulation 2019, No. 61, explanatory notes

REPORT BY THE CLERK

The following report was tabled by the Clerk—

[626A](#) Report pursuant to Standing Order 169 (Acts to be numbered by the Clerk) and Standing Order 165 (Clerical errors or formal changes to any bill) detailing amendments to certain Bills, made by the Clerk, prior to assent by His Excellency the Governor, viz—

Criminal Code (Non-consensual Sharing of Intimate Images) Amendment Bill 2018

Amendments made to Bill

Short title and consequential references to short title—

Omit—

‘Criminal Code (Non-consensual Sharing of Intimate Images) Amendment Bill 2018’

Insert—

‘Criminal Code (Non-consensual Sharing of Intimate Images) Amendment Bill 2019’.

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Waste Levy) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018

Amendments made to Bill

Short title and consequential references to short title—

Omit—

‘Waste Reduction and Recycling (Waste Levy) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018’

Insert—

‘Waste Reduction and Recycling (Waste Levy) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019’.

Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018

Amendments made to Bill

Short title and consequential references to short title—

Omit—

‘Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018’

Insert—

‘Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019’.

Liquor (Rural Hotels Concession) Amendment Bill 2018

Amendments made to Bill

Short title and consequential references to short title—

Omit—

‘Liquor (Rural Hotels Concession) Amendment Bill 2018’

Insert—

‘Liquor (Rural Hotels Concession) Amendment Bill 2019’.

Human Rights Bill 2018

Amendments made to Bill

Short title and consequential references to short title—*Omit—*

‘Human Rights Bill 2018’

Insert—

‘Human Rights Bill 2019’.

Fisheries (Sustainable Fisheries Strategy) Amendment Bill 2018

Amendments made to Bill

Short title and consequential references to short title—*Omit—*

‘Fisheries (Sustainable Fisheries Strategy) Amendment Bill 2018’

Insert—

‘Fisheries (Sustainable Fisheries Strategy) Amendment Bill 2019’.

Land, Explosives and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018

Amendments made to Bill

Short title and consequential references to short title—*Omit—*

‘Land, Explosives and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018’

Insert—

‘Land, Explosives and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019’.

Nature Conservation (Special Wildlife Reserves) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018

Amendments made to Bill

Short title and consequential references to short title—*Omit—*

‘Nature Conservation (Special Wildlife Reserves) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018’

Insert—

‘Nature Conservation (Special Wildlife Reserves) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019’.

Guardianship and Administration and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018

Amendments made to Bill

Short title and consequential references to short title—*Omit—*

‘Guardian and Administration and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018’

Insert—

‘Guardian and Administration and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019’.

Justice Legislation (Links to Terrorist Activity) Amendment Bill 2018

Amendments made to Bill

Short title and consequential references to short title—*Omit—*

‘Justice Legislation (Links to Terrorist Activity) Amendment Bill 2018’

Insert—

‘Justice Legislation (Links to Terrorist Activity) Amendment Bill 2019’.

Economic Development and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018

Amendments made to Bill

Short title and consequential references to short title—*Omit—*

‘Economic Development and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018’

Insert—

‘Economic Development and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019’.

Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018

Amendments made to Bill

Short title and consequential references to short title—*Omit—*

‘Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018’

Insert—

‘Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019’.

Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018

Amendments made to Bill

Short title and consequential references to short title—*Omit—*

'Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018'

Insert—

'Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019'.

MINISTERIAL PAPER**Anti-Cyberbullying Taskforce**

Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.35 am): I lay upon the table of the House the first progress report on implementing the Queensland Anti-Cyberbullying Taskforce report.

Tabled paper: Queensland Government progress report, dated April 2019, titled 'Implementing the Queensland Anti-Cyberbullying Taskforce Report' [\[639\]](#).

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS**Sri Lanka, Bombings**

Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.35 am): On Sunday I met a brave young woman. Jeevana Thirukeswaran lost her parents in the Sri Lankan bombings. It is one thing to watch or read about these attacks, but to actually meet and comfort a 19-year-old who has suddenly lost her parents is absolutely heartbreaking. Jeevana was among hundreds at the Cathedral of St Stephen here in Brisbane who gathered to support our Sri Lankan community. Just as in Christchurch, most of the victims of the Sri Lankan terrorists were defenceless and at prayer when they were killed. There is no point in trying to understand these barbaric crimes. I know that I speak for all Queenslanders when I say that we condemn them.

Sunday's mass was attended by people from all faiths. His Excellency the Governor joined me in attendance, as did the Minister for Multicultural Affairs and a representative of the Lord Mayor. Archbishop Mark Coleridge told the congregation that it was once again proof that there is no 'us' and 'them', as the terrorists try to make out. There is only 'us', and we have to live and work together. It is a theme very familiar to everyone who has heard me speak.

Jeevana is studying IT in Australia. Her 15-year-old brother is left alone in Sri Lanka. We are providing whatever help we can as the Queensland government and working with the federal government to reunite them.

Police Commissioner, Appointment

Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.37 am): Soon Queensland will have a new Police Commissioner. The appointment of Katarina Carroll has been universally applauded. You do not get more homegrown than being raised on a farm in Far North Queensland. Our new commissioner chose policing after she saw it through the eyes of a local policeman. She saw what it means to truly serve the community and made the decision to join at a time when being a woman in uniform was not easy. As she says, the pride she felt the first time she pulled on the blue shirt never left her.

Commissioner Carroll was a detective and served in major crime and the drug squad. She was promoted through the ranks and throughout the state. She guided us through G20, and when Queensland's Fire and Emergency Services needed new leadership she found yet another way to serve. There are few more confronting decisions than those you make in the midst of a natural disaster. Our first priority is always to protect and save lives. Commissioner Carroll has stood beside Queenslanders in times of cyclone and bushfire, and I have no doubt that she has helped protect countless lives.

In many ways we owe our new commissioner to our current one, but I am confident we made the right choice. The fact that our 20th Police Commissioner is the first woman to fill that role is yet another reason to share our pride in this most outstanding appointment.

Resources Projects



Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.38 am): Queensland is home to a vibrant resources industry that employs tens of thousands of people—an industry that I can report is going from strength to strength. This morning I can announce that mines minister Dr Anthony Lynham has approved an expansion of the Cameby coalmine near Miles. The expansion will ensure the ongoing security of 140 jobs at the mine and see the production of coal increase from 2.8 million tonnes per year to 3.5 million tonnes per year.

This announcement comes after news that the mothballed Gregory Crinum mine north-east of Emerald is set to put on up to 300 workers in its underground and open-cut operations by the end of the year. The former BMA operated mine has been bought by Sojitz from Japan, continuing the 50-year tradition of Queensland's metallurgical coal being turned into the world's finest steel by our trading partners in Japan. These workers will join the 30,000 Queenslanders who work in the coal industry, which operates 50 mines across our state. They could be joined by another 950 workers after Minister Dick last week granted coordinated project status to the proposed \$1 billion Winchester South mine in the Bowen Basin.

My government backs resources projects that stack up, whether they be coal, nickel, gold, zinc, bauxite or other minerals. Since coming to office my government has facilitated over \$20 billion worth of resource projects supporting now over 7,000 new jobs. These include Rio Tinto's \$2.7 billion Amrun bauxite mine near Weipa, with 2,000 ongoing jobs including 350 jobs for members of local Indigenous communities; the \$1.4 billion Dugald River zinc mine, which has achieved commercial production and will employ 400 people in full production; and the Sconi project near Townsville, which has been granted coordinated status on its path to becoming a \$1.4 billion mine that could employ 500 people and produce nickel, cobalt and scandium for the renewable energy industry.

We have also supported Shell's \$1.7 billion Charlie Fields gas project, supporting 1,600 jobs; Santos's \$750 million Roma East expansion, where construction started earlier this year, which is supporting 400 construction jobs; the Jemena northern gas pipeline, secured by Minister Lynham and opened late last year, 431 jobs and \$800 million; and Senex's \$140 million Atlas project. Since gold was first discovered near Gympie, Queensland has always been a resources state, and under my government we always will be.

Economy; Jobs



Hon. JA TRAD (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (9.41 am): Stability and certainty are vital to delivering a strong economy, but nationally economic conditions are deteriorating. Last week's inflation figures released by the ABS were sobering reading. Inflation has ground to a halt. The latest ABS data shows that consumer prices have grown by zero per cent in the March quarter, the slowest rate of growth in three years. When inflation flatlines, mortgages and credit card bills take longer to pay off and the Reserve Bank can be forced to cut the cash rate to try to jump-start the stalling Australian economy.

The federal budget on 2 April predicted a downgrade in real GDP numbers by 0.25 per cent in each of the next three years. Household consumption, which represents 60 per cent of our economy, was downgraded from 2.5 per cent to 2.25 per cent. And the federal government downgraded wages growth by 0.25 per cent in 2019-20 and 2020-21. These statistics, as well as a flatlining inflation rate, are all things that the RBA will take into account when it makes a decision on monetary policy next week, on 7 May. Make no mistake: if the RBA is required to cut the cash rate at its next meeting, it will be a clear signal that it views slowing national growth, flat wages and zero inflation as real threats to our economy that cannot be ignored. We need to start clear policy action, stability and certainty at the federal level so that our national economy can thrive and grow.

On the Queensland jobs front there is better economic news. I am pleased to advise that, despite the challenges faced by our national economy—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members, there is too much general conversation. I would like to hear the statement from the Deputy Premier.

Ms TRAD: I am pleased to advise that, despite the challenges faced by our national economy, Queensland has now recorded 30 consecutive months of trend employment growth. This is the longest continuous period of jobs growth in the state since the global financial crisis. The latest ABS labour force data, for March 2019, included plenty of good news for Queensland. Our trend unemployment

rate was 5.9 per cent in March 2019. This is 0.7 percentage points lower than the 6.6 per cent rate we inherited from the previous government. Since the Palaszczuk government came to office in January 2015, 192,100 jobs have been created in our economy, with 113,000 of them being full-time jobs. I will repeat that for those opposite, because they do not like good news about jobs. Since the Palaszczuk Labor government was elected in January 2015, 192,100 jobs have been created in our economy, with more than 113,000 of them being full-time jobs.

In the 12 months to March 2019 the Gold Coast had the largest annual increase in employment, up 16,000 persons; followed by Brisbane north, up 8,800; and Central Queensland, up 7,100 jobs. Mackay had the lowest unemployment rate in the state in March 2019, at 3.9 per cent, from an unemployment rate of nine per cent that we inherited from those opposite. Under this government we have seen 26,800 full-time jobs in construction; 8,100 full-time jobs in agriculture, forestry and fishing; 7,600 full-time jobs in mining; 5,230 full-time jobs in finance and insurance services—


Mr Bleijie: Are these lost jobs?

Ms TRAD: I will take that interjection. These are jobs created, not jobs lost that they are interested in. They cut 14,000 jobs in their first budget. There are 5,230 more full-time jobs in financial and insurance services; 3,700 full-time jobs in accommodation and food services; 15,930 more full-time jobs in education and training; and a whopping 67,900 more full-time jobs in health care and social assistance.

Despite economic uncertainty at the national level, we are seeing positive results in the Queensland labour market. Most importantly, the government's economic plan is continuing to benefit all Queenslanders, including in our critical regional areas. Some 8,300 jobs were created in regional Queensland in the year to March 2019. The gap between the unemployment rate in regional Queensland and the unemployment rate in South-East Queensland continues to narrow—from 2.5 per cent, which we inherited from those opposite, to only 0.8 percentage points in March 2019. The youth unemployment rate has also fallen by 1.5 percentage points, from 14 per cent in January 2015.

At the last election the Palaszczuk Labor government was elected off the back of the trust of Queenslanders who wanted to see us grow our economy, create jobs and secure the future for all Queenslanders no matter where they live. That is exactly the job we are getting on with.

Resources Projects

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (9.47 am): As we have heard from the Premier this morning, the Palaszczuk Labor government is delivering more resource industry jobs, including more coal industry jobs, for the people of Queensland. As the Premier has advised the House this morning, before Easter within my portfolio the Coordinator-General granted coordinated project status to help facilitate complex approvals for the Winchester South coalmine. When it commences, the proposed Winchester South facility coalmine near Moranbah in the Isaac region will deliver—

Mr Powell interjected.


Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for Glass House.

Mr DICK: For the advice of all honourable members, this mine will deliver \$1 billion in value to the Queensland economy. The proponent, Winchester South Coal Operations, expects this metallurgical coal mine would extract up to eight million tonnes of product coal each year. This output would support international steel making for approximately 30 years. Most importantly, the mine has the potential to create up to 500 jobs during its two-year construction period and will require a workforce of up to 450 full-time workers to operate the mine over its lifetime. These workers will be targeted from the heartland of the region—towns like Moranbah, Coppabella and Dysart. If approved, the project is expected to commence construction in 2021, with the first coal extraction proposed in 2023.

This is not the only major coal project we are progressing. Members may recall that on 6 September 2018 I was pleased to announce in this House the commencement of consultation on the environmental impact statement for the Olive Downs mine. This is another \$1 billion coalmine planned for the Bowen Basin. Once approved and operational, the mine could maintain around 1,000 operational jobs over an 80-year time frame and produce up to 15 million tonnes of coking coal each year. This will ensure that great communities and workers in the Bowen Basin will continue to be critical participants in the global steel production chain for decades to come. Importantly, these will not be fly-in fly-out mines. Thanks to the great Labor laws implemented by the Palaszczuk Labor government in our last term, we will deliver more local jobs for coalminers in the Bowen Basin, unlike federal coalition

representatives who would not even meet with Oaky North coalminers locked out of their jobs. Our government makes no apologies for supporting sustainable coal jobs that will support regional communities for decades to come.

Tourism Infrastructure

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Cooper—ALP) (Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games) (9.50 am): The Palaszczuk government is committed to creating jobs. We are committed to diversifying regional economies, particularly in the outback, and creating new jobs in tourism by partnering with locals to build new tourism attractions. We are making great headway with 15 tourism projects that we are delivering through the first ever \$10 million Outback Tourism Infrastructure Fund announced by the Premier late last year. Today I can reveal that combined these projects are creating more than 160 jobs across the outback and pumping more than \$18 million into local economies.

Today workers are doing final assembly activities on the Dinosaur Dreaming Trail in Winton and Barcaldine—a project that will create 18 jobs and pump more than \$2.3 million into those local communities. The Dreaming Trail is on track and expected to be completed by June this year. I can also confirm that today workers are now reassembling the Super Constellation aircraft and replacing the corroded and missing aircraft parts at the Qantas Founders Museum at Longreach—a project set to pump another \$3.5 million into that local economy and which will open in November 2019. Cobbold Gorge will soon have another jewel in the crown, with construction of its glass-bottomed bridge on track to be completed and opened in July this year. Those opposite pretend to stand up for the people of the bush, but the Palaszczuk government is the first government in Queensland's history to run a multimillion dollar tourism infrastructure project just for the outback.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr Millar: When are you coming to the outback, Kate?

Ms JONES: I am going. Do you want to come with me? It's a date!


Mr SPEAKER: Order, member for Gregory. I believe there may be some provocation in the statements. Members to my right, I ask that you ensure that your ministerial statements are factual—

Ms JONES: I said he could come with me!

Mr SPEAKER: Minister for Tourism! I ask members to my right to ensure that their ministerial statements are factual and about public affairs and general government policy.

Ms JONES: Correct, and I very much look forward to the member for Gregory and I going to the outback together. We will continue to invest in the tourism industry because we are committed to strengthening the economy in Western Queensland and create sustainable jobs in local economies.

Health Infrastructure, Jobs

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (9.52 am): The Palaszczuk government is delivering more and better health care for Queenslanders—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members to my left, the minister has barely risen to his feet before being interrupted by, I think, quite childish interjections.

Dr MILES: Thank you, Mr Speaker. The Palaszczuk government is delivering more and better health care for Queenslanders and our record—

Mr Hart interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Minister, resume your seat. Member for Burleigh, you are warned under the standing orders.

Dr MILES: Thank you, Mr Speaker. The Palaszczuk government is delivering more and better health care for Queenslanders and our record health building program is creating jobs right across the state. The STARS project at Herston, under construction now, will deliver 184 new beds to the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital and is employing an average of 333 Queenslanders per annum while it is under construction. I know the education minister is particularly excited to see that project coming out of the ground, as are all Brisbane members on this side of the House. We are investing in the growth corridors north and south of Brisbane, creating jobs in the Logan and Moreton Bay regions. Some 612


Queenslanders will be employed to deliver the Logan and Caboolture redevelopments which will add 328 beds to our hospital system. The rapid expansion of Logan Hospital is creating jobs right now thanks to the passionate advocacy of the members for Waterford, Logan, Macalister, Woodridge and Springwood.

The new Caboolture Hospital emergency department which is under construction now is supporting an estimated 15 jobs each year, and I thank the members for Morayfield and Kurwongbah for their support of that project. Building the new Redcliffe Hospital car park will create an estimated 54 jobs annually, which I know is a matter of close interest to the Leader of the House. The new Adolescent Extended Treatment Centre at the Prince Charles Hospital will not just save lives and will not just save families from the misery of losing a loved one from suicide, but the roughly \$100 million we are investing to replace the Barrett Adolescent Centre, heartlessly closed by those opposite, will create an estimated 71 jobs each year. Thanks to the leadership of the Premier, my predecessor, Minister Dick, the member for Stafford and of course those brave families, a new world-class health facility will rise from the car park at Prince Charles to take the place of the Barrett centre.

It is not just in the south-east that our record program expanding our fantastic, free, universal public hospitals is creating jobs right across this state. Last week I was in Palm Island with the members for Townsville and Thuringowa to open the new Palm Island Primary Health Care Centre which supported 24 jobs during construction and will employ 3.6 full-time-equivalent doctors, 12 full-time-equivalent nurses and 16 full-time-equivalent health workers. In Roma we have created an estimated 97 construction jobs to redevelop its hospital. The Kingaroy Hospital redevelopment has created approximately 72 jobs. There are 32 Wide Bay locals who will put food on their families' tables thanks to the \$42 million emergency expansion.

In the most remote part of this state where many people live closer to PNG than they do to Cairns, the Torres Strait's Primary Health Care Centre redevelopment project is creating 25 jobs thanks to the efforts of the member for Cook. That is not to mention our new and redeveloped ambulance stations. That building program creates about 30 jobs every year everywhere from Cairns to Yarrabilba. When the Palaszczuk government builds new health facilities, we not only help doctors, nurses and health workers to save lives but also create jobs which help Queenslanders to provide for their families and support communities right across this great state.

State Schools, Infrastructure

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (9.57 am): The Palaszczuk government is building the infrastructure our state schools need to ensure our kids get a great start. Since 2015 we have delivered 13 new schools in communities across the state. In fact, there are some 2,000 more classrooms today than there were four years ago. We are continuing to invest in new schools and additional classrooms to cater for future enrolment growth. Aren't state schools great schools, and aren't people speaking with their feet?

Media reports yesterday suggesting that more than 100 state schools were operating above their capacity did not accurately represent the build capacity of these schools. A school's more than adequate build capacity is the actual number of students who can be accommodated in classrooms at that school and no student is turned away from their local state school. Next year the government will open eight new schools in some of the fastest growing communities in Queensland—Yarrabilba, Ripley Valley, Coomera, Mango Hill, Caboolture, Calliope and Fortitude Valley. That will take the total number of new schools opened since the election of the Palaszczuk government to 21, and a further two schools for Dutton Park and Baringa will open in 2021. This is a tremendous boost to public education in Queensland delivered by this Labor government.


Our ambitious infrastructure program has the added benefit of creating jobs in the state's construction industry. The \$80 million Inner City North State Secondary College in Fortitude Valley will support 300 full-time jobs. The new \$64 million high school at Coomera—I turned the sod with the member for Gaven just last week—will create 170 full-time jobs. With regard to the Yarrabilba State High School in the electorate of Logan—I turned the sod with the member for Logan—this \$65 million project will create 170 jobs. The Calliope State High School, championed by the member for Gladstone, is a \$66 million project that will create 180 local jobs.

There are new primary and secondary schools in Ripley Valley, in the electorate of Bundamba, at \$120 million, supporting 316 local jobs. There is the new special school at Caboolture—a project that I know the member for Morayfield and minister is keeping a close eye on—at \$24 million, supporting 64 jobs. There is the new high school at Mango Hill, in the Murrumbidgee electorate, at \$64 million,

supporting 170 full-time jobs. In total, these eight projects are supporting some 1,370 jobs for Queenslanders. If we add all the projects to provide new and refurbished facilities at existing schools across the state, that shows that the Palaszczuk government is supporting around 2,700 jobs through its education infrastructure program.

The Palaszczuk government is also creating jobs by employing more teachers. Currently, there are 1,165 additional full-time-equivalent teachers and 264 full-time-equivalent teacher aides working in schools today compared to 12 months ago. Since the election of the Palaszczuk government, the number of full-time-equivalent teachers in Queensland's state schools has increased by more than 4,800 and the number of teacher aides has grown by close to 1,400. The Palaszczuk government is building the education infrastructure that Queensland's state schools need and, in doing so, is supporting jobs for Queenslanders and giving every child a great start.

Mount Isa, Rail Line

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (10.00 am): After more than 160,000 hours of work to replace 120,000 tonnes of ballast, repair more than 200 sites and rebuild 38 bridge abutments, I am pleased to announce that the Mount Isa rail line is back on line. That 1,000-kilometre rail corridor, which connects our thriving mineral industries to the world and our regional communities, is a critical link in our Queensland economy. When it was lashed earlier this year by an unprecedented monsoonal event, with record rain and flooding earlier, the Palaszczuk Labor government made the line's repair a top priority.


Over 11 weeks, more than 400 Queensland Rail staff and contractors worked around the clock to rebuild the rail line from Hughenden to Richmond, from Maxwellton to Nonda, and from Tibbarri to Oorindi. This mammoth effort culminated yesterday in the first train travelling from Mount Isa to Townsville, marking an important milestone between our rich minerals province and one of North Queensland's largest ports.

Not only did the dedicated task force restore the line in the toughest of conditions—and I inspected the line on a 40-plus-degree day, and there were many of those, in full PPE gear; they also seized the opportunity to boost the productivity of the line while they repaired it, cutting travel times and ensuring that our supply chain helps industry grow and support local jobs. After rerailing and reconditioning key sections, end-to-end run times have been reduced by up to 50 minutes. That is good news for Queensland's economy—a proven world-class minerals producer and exporter adding 7,000 Queensland resource jobs since 2015 and driving a renewable energy boom in our sunshine state.

I welcome federal Labor's announcement of \$100 million to boost the Mount Isa to Townsville rail corridor's productivity and resilience, adding to the Palaszczuk government's \$380 million commitment. Both are very substantial commitments to North Queensland, which means more jobs for North Queenslanders and for Queenslanders generally.

On Friday, I visited Townsville to meet with some of the hardworking Queensland Rail staff who were instrumental in bringing the rail line back on line. Their work not only restored the rail line but also provided a much needed injection for communities and businesses in the north-west. By working together with the Department of Housing and Public Works, bustling workers camps were established in Richmond and Julia Creek during the repairs, where local businesses were tapped on the shoulder to provide food, cleaning services and supplies. I would like to acknowledge all those who worked with Queensland Rail to restore the line, including engineers, contractors, Aurizon, local councils and Transport and Main Roads staff. Queenslanders band together when times get tough. This House should be proud of the workers and the work that was done over the past 11 weeks to restore the Mount Isa to Townsville rail line.

Resource Projects

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) (10.03 am): The Queensland resources sector is going from strength to strength. As the Premier stated, Yancoal will be expanding its Cameby Downs coalmine in the Surat Basin. I approved the mining lease last Friday. Yancoal advises that production ramp-up to 3.5 million tonnes is expected to start immediately, with peak production expected to be achieved in 12 months. This expansion is a vote of confidence by Yancoal in Queensland's world-class resources, our infrastructure and our skilled resources workforce. The planned expansion will extend this mine's life to 75 years. This is just one in a Queensland conga line of new and reopened resource projects.

Since Labor came to government in 2015, resources companies have invested or committed more than \$20 billion in projects, supporting more than 8,000 jobs. As the Premier said, a few weeks ago Sojitz announced that it will restart production later this year at the Gregory Crinum mine near Emerald. Sojitz also owns the Minerva mine in the same area and expects to employ 200 to 300 workers by the end of the year. Recently, the Premier and I also opened Rio Tinto's \$2.7 billion Amrun project on the cape, which represents 2,000 ongoing jobs.

Let me list the resource projects that we have approved since we have been in government: Texas, Goonicum, Goog-a-Binge, the Charlie Fields gas project, the Northern Gas Pipeline—

An opposition member: What about Kingaroy?

Dr LYNHAM: I take the interjection about the Kingaroy farm. Those opposite do not know which way they are going on resources. They are totally confused. I will list the resources projects that the Queensland government has supported: Texas, Goonicum, Goog-a-Binge—

Mr Mander interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Everton!

Dr LYNHAM:—the Charlie Fields gas project, the Northern Gas Pipeline, the Daandine and Tipton fields expansion, the Roma East gas expansion, Arcadia Fields gas, Atlas Field gas, Surat gas, Bluff, Gregory Crinum, New Lenton, Moorvale South, Olive Downs, Jellinbah, Dysart East, Isaac Downs, Curragh, Blair Athol, Meteor Downs South, Byerwen—

Mr Mander interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Everton!

Dr LYNHAM:—Amrun, Bauxite Hills, Thalanga, Agate Creek, Mungana, Mount Garnet, Dugald River, Lady Loretta, Lorena and Capricorn Copper. I am exhausted.

Mr Mander interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Everton, you are warned under the standing orders. I repeatedly asked you to cease your interjections.

Dr LYNHAM: This government has invested strategically in the sector's future through concessions for explorers through our exploration programs and we now see federal Labor offering support for explorers—support that a future coalition government would deny. With Labor at the helm state and federally, Queensland will remain a premier global investment destination, providing jobs for miners well into the future.

Resources Industry, Training



Hon. SM FENTIMAN (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (10.07 am): Queensland's 30 consecutive months of jobs growth have been helped by many new and established industries, but a big contributor has been Queensland's resources sector. In fact, since 2017, Queensland's resources sector has created almost one in three of Queensland's new jobs and there are no signs of this growth slowing. That is why, over the last five years, we have invested \$78 million in training aimed at supporting Queensland's resources sector. That includes \$22 million in 2017-18 that supported almost 1,700 apprentices and trainees and more than 7,500 students to gain the skills for a job in the thriving resources sector. We are on track to support even more apprentices in the resources sector this financial year, where we have seen more than 1,300 apprentices undertake training already.

The Palaszczuk government is making sure that Queenslanders can join the resources industry with the technical skills that are needed to operate CSG, LNG and hydrocarbons plants and equipment and to work in the gas supply industry with subsidised training. The Palaszczuk government will continue to expand training opportunities to support Queensland's emerging hydrogen industry.

As part of our \$770 million VET investment plan, we are partnering with local councils and industry under our \$9 million Regional Skills Investment Strategy. The program identifies region-specific strategies to increase training opportunities to get even more Queenslanders the skills and training they need to get a job in this industry. That includes in the resources sector in the Central Highlands, Mackay, Rockhampton, Townsville and Whitsunday. Our skills investment does not stop there. We also partner directly with the Queensland Resource Council and the Queensland Minerals and Energy Academy to deliver the Gateway to Industry Schools for minerals and energy.

This program is being offered in 60 schools with the support of 24 sponsor employers in the resources sector. To date the program has helped more than 4,000 students gain work-ready skills to pursue a career in the resources industry. This is a fantastic program providing a talent pipeline of skilled and motivated high school graduates. These graduates now also have access to free TAFE across a range of high priority courses in the resource sector, including a certificate III traineeship in drilling and trenchless technology. Queensland's resources sector has a strong and growing pool of local talent to rely upon and they have the backing of the Palaszczuk government's sizeable training investment.

Police Commissioner, Appointment



Hon. MT RYAN (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (10.10 am): When it comes to jobs there is one that is very important to all Queenslanders. Last week I had the honour of recommending to cabinet that Katarina Carroll be selected as Queensland's next police commissioner. The selection panel had the highest quality field of applicants to choose from. The panel said Commissioner Carroll was an outstanding candidate. In a very significant way, Commissioner Carroll's appointment reflects the culture of excellence within the Queensland Police Service and that is in no small part due to the work of our current Police Commissioner, Ian Stewart. Commissioner Stewart has fostered a culture that has seen the development of the QPS as a breeding ground for leaders. For example, Commissioner Carroll had a long career with the Queensland Police Service before she was appointed Queensland Fire and Emergency Services Commissioner in 2014 and now she will be back with the QPS, soon to be the top cop. Look around and the QPS have leaders everywhere. Senior Queensland police officers have gone on to head up other major agencies, both at a state and federal level.

I thank Ian Stewart for his continued emphasis on bringing along the next generation of leaders from within Queensland Police Service ranks. Back in 2012 Commissioner Stewart rang Katarina Carroll when she was an assistant commissioner and asked her to take charge of security for the G20 summit to be held in 2014 in Brisbane. It was a big responsibility but Commissioner Stewart knew he had put that responsibility in capable hands. It will be the same again in a few months time when Commissioner Stewart hands over the baton to Commissioner Carroll. He hands over the baton to a steady pair of hands. We have been lucky to have a leader of the calibre of Commissioner Ian Stewart and soon we will be fortunate to have Commissioner Katarina Carroll in charge of the Queensland Police Service.

CRIMINAL CODE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

CRIMINAL CODE AND OTHER LEGISLATION (MASON JETT LEE) AMENDMENT BILL

Cognate Debate; Order of Business



Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.12 am), by leave, without notice: I move—


1. In accordance with standing order 172, the Criminal Code and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and the Criminal Code and Other Legislation (Mason Jett Lee) Amendment Bill be treated as cognate bills for their remaining stages, with
 - (a) separate questions being put for the second readings;
 - (b) the consideration of the bills in detail together; and
 - (c) separate questions being put for the third readings and long titles.
2. Notwithstanding anything contained in the standing and sessional orders, the bills will be considered during government business in accordance with the business program motion and
 - (a) the time limits and order for moving the second readings shall be: the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice—30 minutes, followed by the member for Toowoomba South—30 minutes;
 - (b) the time limits and order for reply to the second reading debate shall be: member for Toowoomba South—20 minutes, followed by the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice—20 minutes.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

LEGAL AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Report


 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (10.13 am): I lay upon the table of the House report No. 37 of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee titled *Civil Liability (Institutional Child Abuse) Amendment Bill 2018*. This report presents a summary of the committee's examination of the bill, including considering the policy outcomes to be achieved by the legislation and the application of fundamental legislative principles.

The committee recommends that the bill not be passed. I thank those who made submissions to the inquiry and appeared before the committee to provide further evidence. I also thank the committee secretariat and Mr Berkman MP, member for Maiwar, for their assistance. I commend the report to the House.

Tabled paper: Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 37, 56th Parliament, April 2019—Civil Liability (Institutional Child Abuse) Amendment Bill 2018 [\[640\]](#).

TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Report


 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (10.14 am): I lay upon the table of the House report No. 20 of the Transport and Public Works Committee. This report covers portfolio subordinate legislation tabled between 14 November 2018 and 12 February 2019 considered by the committee. I commend the report to the House.

Tabled paper: Transport and Public Works Committee: Report No. 20, 56th Parliament, April 2019—Subordinate legislation tabled between 14 November 2018 and 12 February 2019 [\[641\]](#).

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr SPEAKER: Question time will conclude at 11.14 am.

Metro South Hospital and Health Service, Chief Executive Officer

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (10.14 am): My first question is to the Premier. In light of the sensational sacking of the Labor appointed CEO of Metro South Hospital and Health Service and the ongoing health crisis across South-East Queensland hospitals, will the Premier finally take responsibility for Labor's health crisis and sack the health minister?

Ms PALASZCZUK: Let me say from the outset, in relation to the Leader of the Opposition's question, that we are very proud of our record when it comes to health and delivering health services to families across this state, and our health minister. I love having the opportunity to talk about health in this House because our record stacks up. We have seen more doctors and more nurses employed in our hospitals. We have a plan to expand our hospitals. We know very clearly what those opposite did to the health system in this state. They gutted health in Queensland. We went through this at length last question time. I am happy to go through it again. Let us go through what those opposite did. They sacked over 4,000 health workers.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock. I am having difficulty hearing the Premier.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Not only did they sack nurses and midwives, they had a brawl with the doctors in Queensland.

Mr Dick: Led by the member for Moggill!

Ms PALASZCZUK: I take that interjection. The member for Moggill was front and centre of that brawl. Do members want to look at the architect of the cuts to nurses and health professionals in this state? The architect is the member for Clayfield and the apprentice is the Leader of the Opposition. She sat around the CBRC table and made those decisions to cut and gut health in Queensland.

In contrast, my government is building a strong and resilient health system. It has taken a Labor government to invest in Roma, in Kingaroy—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The volume is too high, members.

Ms PALASZCZUK: It has taken a Labor government to deliver for the bush, investing in Roma and Kingaroy. We know the Nationals do not stand up for the bush in Queensland and they do not stand up for the bush federally. We know what the Nationals think of One Nation.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Glass House!

Ms PALASZCZUK: In relation to the issue of the CEO, the board made that decision. The LNP set up the board system in this state. It is one that we have adopted as well. The board makes decisions. The board made that decision, advised the minister and the minister backed that decision.

Hospitals, Emergency Departments

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: My second question is also to the Premier. Labor's latest health crisis has seen paramedics warn that patients are being put at risk from being stranded in hospital corridors on trolleys and stretchers as part of Labor's rapid off-load policy. Will the Premier now listen to the paramedics who are concerned about patient care and immediately dump Labor's rapid off-load policy?

Ms PALASZCZUK: In this state, we back our paramedics. In fact, we have actually put on more paramedics. What we have seen this month—

Mr Crandon interjected.

Mr Powell interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Coomera and member for Glass House, you have both been cautioned previously. You are warned under the standing orders. It is cumulative, member.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am pleased to report that this month across our state we have seen a decrease in emergency department presentations. On Friday and again yesterday I was briefed by the health minister and the director-general and advised that we are seeing a decrease in the number of presentations. At the same time, we are seeing a stark increase in the number of flu presentations. At this stage I advise all Queenslanders, not only those who are vulnerable, to go to their local GP or pharmacy and have a flu shot for this season. We have seen a massive increase—

Dr Miles: A tripling.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Yes, a tripling of the number of presentations. Our priority is the most vulnerable and those in aged care. However, I urge all Queenslanders to go to their GP or their pharmacist to have a flu shot. Of course we listen to our paramedics, we listen to our nurses and we listen to our doctors because that is what is called consultative government.

Mr Minnikin interjected.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Chatsworth and Leader of the Opposition, I remind you to put your comments through the chair. I will not tolerate those sorts of cross-chamber comments.

Ms PALASZCZUK: We will continue to listen and respond to them, because that is what good decent stable governments do.

While on my feet, I am happy to raise the issue that we are still owed money by Scott Morrison and Canberra. More than \$300 million is owed in back pay, which is money that I could put straight into our health system. I know the situation in Victoria is the same as in Queensland. We are waiting for that money. I urge Canberra to deliver that money. I will be looking forward to seeing any further announcements about health from both leaders during the current federal election campaign.

Federal Government

Mr BUTCHER: My question is to the Premier and Minister for Trade. Will the Premier update the House on any recent improvement in federal government funding for Queensland?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Gladstone for the question and, of course, the answer is, no. Unfortunately, we see hardly any money coming to Queensland. We all know that the money goes south. In the budget, we saw very clearly major projects on the never-never—blank, blank, blank—continuing into the future. As I have said clearly, we need to see the federal government, whoever is elected, deliver for Queensland. When it comes to funding, we will fight tooth and nail for our fair share.

The top priority is going to be health funding—that is, the \$300 million that we are owed—and then we want infrastructure funding. I make it very clear to both leaders: show me the money; show Queensland the money! We hear Scott Morrison talking about congestion busting, but we do not see any money for Cross River Rail, which is a congestion-busting project. Josh Frydenberg is more than happy to give money to projects in his own seat and elsewhere in Victoria. He is happy to give money down there. That is simply not fair. Of course, Victoria and New South Wales always get the lion's share of funding and what do we hear from those opposite? Nothing! From them we hear absolutely nothing when it comes to delivering for Queensland.

We are still waiting for remote housing money. In the midst of this election campaign, how important is it to have roofs over the heads of families? We are the most decentralised state and we have a large number of remote Indigenous communities. It is absolutely shameful that funding is not there for remote Indigenous housing in this state. That is scandalous. Secondly, in terms of skilling Queenslanders for work, where is the money that the federal government owes us for training? It is simply not there.

I applaud Bill Shorten for doing a great job last night. Didn't he do a great job last night? He put in place a clear vision for the type of Australia that he can deliver if he is elected on 18 May. That is in sharp contrast to the LNP, which has put forward hardly any policies and no funding for Queensland.

Mr SPEAKER: Before calling the next questioner, I remind members who are already warned under the standing orders that that means no interjections for the remainder of question time.

Metro South Hospital and Health Service, Chief Executive Officer

Mr MANDER: My question without notice is to the Minister for Health. I refer to the sudden sacking of the CEO of the Metro South Hospital and Health Service board just two years into his five-year contract. Can the minister advise the House what termination payout the CEO will be given, as he was on a salary of \$645,000 per year with three years left to go on his contract?

Ms Jones interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister for tourism, you are warned under the standing orders.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I will wait for silence, members. I have not even given the minister the call yet.

Dr MILES: I thank the member for Everton for his question. He is referring to the decision that was taken yesterday by the chair and board of Metro South HHS to terminate the contract of their chief executive, Stephen Ayre. I was advised of that decision, rightly taken by the board yesterday. I welcome their decision to appoint Shaun Drummond as acting chief executive.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Members, the minister is being responsive to the question asked. I ask that you hear his response.

Dr MILES: Metro South Health is a very large operation. Its annual budget is \$2.4 billion. It employs more than 14,000 staff. We expect our health executives to ensure that they deliver the hospital performance for patients that they are expected to deliver operationally. It is the board's responsibility to ensure that they have the executives in place that they need to deliver that operationally. Those opposite might want to meddle in those kinds of processes, but we will support the board while—

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

Mr McArdle interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Buderim, you are warned under the standing orders. Member for Caloundra, you are warned under the standing orders.

Dr MILES: We will support the board while they make responsible decisions to ensure that they have the executives that they need to deliver the performance and the outcomes for patients that we expect of them.

Of course, Dr Ayre will receive his appropriate entitlements. They will be calculated in terms of his contract. They will be disclosed in the annual report to the public, as these things are. However, I can guarantee the House one thing: it will be a lot less than \$1.4 million. It will be a lot less than those opposite cost us in discriminating against just one doctor in just one health service. They walk in here

talking about the sacking of one senior executive; they sacked 4,400 health workers, 1,800 of whom were nurses and midwives. We stand for frontline staff and we will stand up for frontline staff, while those opposite come in here defending highly paid senior executives. The board—

Ms Bates: How much?

Dr MILES: A lot less than \$1.4 million. We will continue to support the board to deliver the best patient outcomes for people who live in the southern suburbs of Brisbane.

Resources Industry

Mr O'ROURKE: My question without notice is of the Premier. Can the Premier update the House on her government's commitment to the resources industry and on any alternative proposals?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Rockhampton for that question. I know that he is a very strong advocate for resource projects especially in his community, and I thank him for his very strong advocacy. As I said earlier today, my government approved over \$20 billion of resource projects when we came to office, creating more than 7,000 jobs. This is in stark contrast to those opposite. What we see very clearly is the resource industry going from strength to strength, and it includes coal, gas and renewables.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Maryborough, member for Gregory, if you want to take your conversation outside, go and do so, otherwise you are both warned under the standing orders.

Ms PALASZCZUK: In fact, we have record trade figures—\$83 billion under this government, up 17.6 per cent in just 12 months. The largest part of our exports of course is coal—\$35.8 billion in 12 months, up 16 per cent. We know that those opposite want to spread around some untruths, but the facts speak louder than words; the facts are clearly there. I go on trade missions to Japan and see the different trading companies there. Recently when I was in London investors were very keen to continue their investment in what we in Queensland have; however, not everyone seems to support our resource sector. I have a letter here expressing concerns about the Moorlands coal project north-west of Clermont; in fact, it expresses concerns about threats to native wildlife including koalas, emus, kangaroos and echidnas. It talks about adverse effects on Clermont's tourism industry, the potential impact on the Blair Athol State Forest, and the impact of an access road to the mine. Where do we think that this letter could have come from? Perhaps it was the member for Maiwar. Perhaps it was someone from the Greens. Perhaps it is from Bob Brown. In fact, the letter also says—

As the local member I am seeking your urgent clarification around the following aspects of this mining lease approval and for an extension of time to ensure these issues can be properly investigated and considered.

The member for Burdekin, the shadow minister for natural resources and mines and the shadow minister for northern Queensland, wants an investigation, an extension. There we go.

Mr SPEAKER: The Premier's time has expired.

Ms PALASZCZUK: It is all there in black and white for the world to see.

Logan Hospital, Ambulance Policy

Ms BATES: My question is to the Premier. Labor's hand-picked Health Director-General, Michael Walsh, described the rapid off-load ambulance policy at Logan Hospital as clearly not a smooth process. Why has the Premier continued the controversial dump-and-run policy that was only supposed to be a temporary measure for the 2018 Commonwealth Games?

Ms PALASZCZUK: As I said very clearly, we support our paramedics. I know the minister has been down to Logan and visited Logan Hospital. We will continue to work, as we always do, with the local boards and the local hospitals in consultation with our emergency departments and the paramedics. We stand on our record as opposed to those opposite. We are also expanding the Logan Hospital. Our plans are to expand the Logan Hospital as we are expanding Ipswich, Caboolture, Kingaroy, Roma, and the list goes on. We will continue to listen to the health professionals and work with them.

We know the track record of those opposite, and I know the member for Mudgeeraba loves to mouth off. The member for Mudgeeraba sat at the cabinet table and made decisions to sack nurses. That is the record of the member. She sacked her own when she sat at the cabinet table. That is the member for Mudgeeraba's record. Very clearly, she sat at the cabinet table and made those decisions. Do not be a hypocrite in this parliament.

Economy

Ms LINARD: My question without notice is of the Deputy Premier. Can the Deputy Premier explain how stability and certainty are important preconditions for a strong economy?

Ms TRAD: I thank the member for Nudgee for the question. Stability and certainty is incredibly important for the national economy as it is for the state economy. As I outlined previously this morning, what we are seeing is a response to the cuts and chaos from the Morrison LNP government. There is zero inflation, stagnant wages growth, declining economic growth and declining consumption growth in our nation. In only March this year we recorded a per capita recession in our nation. These are all signs that the community is responding negatively to the cuts and chaos we are seeing from the Morrison LNP government. In every boardroom I go to, in every corporate company conversation I have, in every single business meeting I have, the No. 1 issue they raise is the chaos emanating from the federal coalition government. Unfortunately, what we have on offer in this federal election from the Morrison LNP government is only more of the same. What have we seen recently? We have seen a deal with Clive Palmer, someone who is well known in Queensland for doing over workers in a deal with the Morrison LNP government. Yesterday, we found out that even the federal Treasurer, who is coughing up \$67 million—

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock.

Ms TRAD: I am tabling that, Mr Speaker, for the benefit of the House.

Tabled paper: Photograph depicting the member for Kawana, Mr Jarrod Bleijie MP, and the former member for Buderim, Mr Steve Dickson [642].

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, you are warned under the standing orders; I have already had to caution you today. Member for Toowoomba South, you are warned under the standing orders. Member for Southern Downs, I can hear you very clearly; you are warned under the standing orders.

Ms TRAD: The federal Treasurer of our nation, who is forking out the \$67 million to pay for those workers' entitlements in Townsville—and I will table it for the benefit of the House—is putting the Clive Palmer party second.

Tabled paper: Liberal Party how-to-vote card for the electoral division of Kooyong [643].

This is a disgrace. What is even more of a disgrace is Scott Morrison leaving it up to this mob in Queensland, the Liberal National Party, to preference One Nation second. What we have seen overnight is the disgrace that One Nation is—the disgraceful conduct of Steve Dickson, who only 14 short months ago was doing the numbers for Tim Mander to become leader of the LNP! I table a copy of that report for the benefit of the House.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Courier-Mail*, dated 21 February 2016, titled 'LNP's secret revolt revealed' [644].

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I remind the member, through you, Mr Speaker, of the titles of honourable members in this place. You constantly remind us all, Mr Speaker, to uphold the values of that.

Mr SPEAKER: I did not hear which titles were not used. Could I ask the Deputy Premier please to withdraw?

Ms TRAD: I apologise, Mr Speaker. Steve Dickson, the former LNP member for Buderim, was doing the numbers—the numbers man—for the member for Everton, the wannabe leader of the LNP. The member for Kawana knows all about what it is like to work with Steve Dickson. It is clear: vote for Scott Morrison and get more cuts and chaos.

Mr SPEAKER: The Deputy Premier's time has expired. Members to my right, I ask you to take notice of the time remaining on the clock. I will sit you down once your time has expired. This will be my last warning.

Hospitals, Overcrowding

Mr BLEIJIE: My question without notice is to the Premier. In response to Labor's rapid off-load ambulance policies and issues in Metro South Hospital and Health Service, United Voice branch secretary Gary Bullock said, 'It's simply unacceptable to turn patients away from hospitals and back into ambulances. It's putting at risk the lives of Queenslanders in need.' Does the Premier take responsibility for issues with her government's rapid off-load policy that is putting patients' lives at risk?

Ms PALASZCZUK: We can see from those opposite that one minute they hate unions and the next minute they like unions.

Ms Trad: The only constant is their relationship with One Nation.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right. I take that interjection. They love One Nation. The state election seems to be a distant memory. Do they remember the cuts and the chaos of Nicholls and One Nation? Now we have Morrison with One Nation and Clive Palmer. What a circus! What a show!

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Premier, I noticed earlier you referred to a member not by their correct title. I ask that you apologise to the member.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Sorry, which member?

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, I think you might find it was the member for Clayfield.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I apologise to the member for Clayfield.

Ms Grace: Oh, Tim!

Mr SPEAKER: Minister for Education, you are warned under the standing orders.

Ms Grace: What for?

Mr SPEAKER: For referring to members not by their correct titles, as I have just asked the Premier to withdraw for.

Ms PALASZCZUK: It is good to see the member for Clayfield smiling. As I have said previously, this is a very important issue. We have seen the reduction in emergency waiting times statewide. We are taking these issues extremely seriously. The health minister talks to everyone. He talks to the doctors. He talks to the paramedics. He talks to the nurses and the midwives. He has been to Logan. My government is investing an extra 192 beds at Logan. That is what we are delivering—and a new maternity ward.

As we know, we have communities in Queensland that are growing and we are planning for the future. We will also sit down and discuss the issues with the unions because that is what we do in this state. We discuss with everyone—business, community, unions. It is called working together—something that those opposite do not know about. They have not learnt from the past. What we see federally is a recipe for cuts and disasters when it comes to the federal election campaign.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr Watts interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Toowoomba North and Leader of the Opposition, I have cautioned you several times this morning. You are warned under the standing orders.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The Ambulance Commissioner also met with senior QAS staff and the Metro South Hospital and Health Service staff on Thursday, 11 April. As I said, discussions will continue. It is a priority of the government, and the health minister has these issues well in hand.

Townsville, Port Expansion

Mr STEWART: My question is to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. As the Palaszczuk government has kept the Port of Townsville in public hands, can the minister update the House on the port expansion project and any debts currently outstanding?

Mr BAILEY: I thank the member for Townsville for his question. I thank him and the members for Thuringowa and Mundingburra for their commitment and delivery of infrastructure in Townsville.

Ms Bates interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Mudgeeraba, you are warned under the standing orders.

Mr BAILEY: What we are seeing is the biggest expansion of the Townsville port in its history—a \$193 million channel-widening project to bring in bigger ships to cut import costs and to turbocharge the North Queensland economy. We saw the beginning of the rock contract start up there. There will be 600,000 tonnes of rock coming into the Townsville port in the next 12 months because of the hard work of our three MPs in Townsville delivering infrastructure and not just at the port. There is the berth 4 upgrade, the Riverway Drive upgrade, the stadium and water security. There is also the Townsville Ring Road, and we have finally shamed the federal government into agreeing to co-fund part of that. We are seeing \$800 million-plus of infrastructure going into Townsville because of the Palaszczuk Labor government.

Sadly, in Townsville the loss of 800 jobs by Clive Palmer and Queensland Nickel still haunts the town to this day. We see the biggest bully and braggart bragging about his billions, yet I can reveal today that still to this day he owes the Port of Townsville a million dollars in fees that he did not pay when he had Queensland Nickel. To this very day he has not paid his debts, whether it is his debts to the workers up there, with the \$70 million of unpaid entitlements owed to them, or his debts to the port. What a disgrace.

We are seeing this absurd situation occur where the LNP and the Morrison government are preferencing him, trying to give him the balance of power in the Senate—this braggart, this bully, who does not pay his debts. We are seeing the chaos in Canberra being accelerated and turbocharged by bringing into play a con man, someone who cannot be trusted. He will say anything to benefit himself and to profit himself. The LNP are preferencing this person. The chaos, division and dysfunction of the last three years will look like a tea party compared to having Clive Palmer in the Senate thanks to LNP preferences.

If this is leadership, we need a change of government federally because what we will see is chaos on a scale that we have not seen before federally with a Morrison-Clive Palmer-Pauline Hanson-Barnaby Joyce government. Barnaby will come back. You can be sure of that, Mr Speaker. There will be chaos in Canberra. You have seen nothing yet until you see Clive Palmer in the Senate. Remember what happened last time? He fell asleep in the Senate. He missed 60 sitting days. He missed many votes on law. He did not do his job properly. He is not going to do it again. He is only going to turbocharge the chaos thanks to the LNP preferencing in a dirty deal.

Hospitals, Overcrowding

Dr ROWAN: My question is to the Minister for Health. Documents released only through RTI reveal that the minister was warned by QEII hospital nursing staff in June 2018 that 'patients have been placed on these stretchers, against doctors' clinical advice, and left unattended, which they believe is a risk to patient safety'. Why did the minister not act on these concerns which were raised almost a year ago?

Dr MILES: I thank the member for Moggill for his question—another audition for the shadow health minister's role. If the member would care to table the document he is referring to, I am happy to have a look at it. What I can advise the House is that whenever issues have been raised with me I have acted on them usually by seeking a briefing from the department, from the HHS and from the Ambulance Commissioner. I am sure that that is what would have occurred if the claims made in the member's question are accurate.

Let me say this: the actions we have taken in Metro South and at Logan Hospital are working. They are working. The most important thing when it comes to patient off-stretcher time is that patients arriving by ambulance get into the hospital as fast as possible so that the paramedics can get back into the field to save the next life. The actions taken to allow that transfer to happen as fast as possible are leading to a reduction in response times for ambulances. That is what the community cares about. They care how long it takes for their triple 0 call to get answered, how long it takes for the paramedics to get to their loved one and how long it takes for their loved one to be transferred into the hospital. I will not apologise to the member for Moggill or anyone on that side for taking actions that get patients into hospitals faster.

Let me go to just how effective the steps we have taken have been. While last sitting week we were able to detail the unprecedented level of demand our hospitals were facing, I am pleased to report that in March our hospitals delivered very similar patient performance outcomes to what they did in February, even after the cuts by the Morrison government, even after those record flu numbers, even after those record presentations. In March, during that unprecedented demand, our hardworking health workers saw patients with a median wait time of just 17 minutes right across this state—178,000 patients were seen at our emergency departments with a median wait time of just 17 minutes.

I am pleased to report that to date in April the median wait time is 16 minutes, doing even better than last month. Patient off-stretcher time, which those opposite are keen to talk about, has improved from 75.4 per cent to 79.5 per cent, representing just well how our health workers are doing.

(Time expired)

State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning Portfolio, Jobs

Mr KING: My question is to the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning. Could the minister please update the House on any deals recently made in his portfolio relevant to jobs and the economy in Queensland and whether he is aware of any other approaches?

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Kurwongbah for his very strong support for workers in his community. When Carter Holt Harvey announced the closure of its Gympie Pinepanels site, there were 42 workers who went home fearing for their future and for the future of their families. But as I announced on Anzac Day last week by providing industry attraction incentives the Palaszczuk government has struck a deal with Laminex Australia to reopen that site and save 42 jobs. That is great news for the people of Gympie and it is great news for the people of Queensland.

The only reason it is happening is because of the industry attraction programs that the Palaszczuk Labor government has. Put simply, this would not have happened under the LNP because they cut funding to those programs when they were in government. But perhaps I should correct the record. I said that the Palaszczuk Labor government saved 42 jobs in Gympie. We in fact saved 43 when the Palaszczuk Labor government put One Nation last and saved the member for Gympie. We saved his job as well.

The LNP is doing its own deals at the moment. The Queensland LNP locked in the deal with One Nation and they are now doing a deal with Clive Palmer. Let me make this clear to the House: the Palaszczuk Labor government did a deal and saved 42 jobs in Gympie. The Queensland LNP did a deal with a man—Clive Palmer—who destroyed 800 jobs in Townsville. There could not be a clearer difference between Queensland Labor and the Queensland LNP.

It is not just people in Townsville. What about the Palmer Coolum victims? Six hundred staff lost their jobs when Clive Palmer ran the old Hyatt Coolum into the ground. What about the 91 members of the timeshare scheme? He cut off water and power to them. I read the harrowing story of a lady last week forced to camp out in a dilapidated villa with no water and no power. Mosquitoes were breeding in the pool. It is appalling. This is what she said—

I hope the Townsville people get their money, but what about us? We have been waiting for years and that is what really upsets me. It was part of our retirement fund for all of us going on to the next stage of our lives.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Courier-Mail*, dated 15 April 2019, titled 'Retirees want resolution with Palmer over ruined Coolum resort' [\[645\]](#).

The quote was by Mrs Maree Frecklington, the mother-in-law of the Leader of the Opposition. The Leader of the Opposition is happy to sign off on a deal that sells Queenslanders down the drain—timeshare residents at the Hyatt and workers in Townsville. That is the sort of person the honourable members opposite think they should do a deal with, selling those people down the drain. That is what they do. They do a deal with Clive Palmer; we do deals to support jobs in our state. Queenslanders know there is only one party you can trust and that is Queensland Labor.

Youth Justice

Mr LAST: My question without notice is to the Premier. In light of today's revelations of another escape from a supervised community accommodation or youth bail house in Townsville, will the Premier finally put community safety first and scrap this failed policy?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Burdekin for the question. My understanding is that there are currently young people still in supported accommodation—around a dozen is my understanding at the moment. We will continue to work with the organisations to support these young people whilst they are on bail.

Tourism Infrastructure

Mr HEALY: My question is to the Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games. Will the minister please update the House on the growth of Queensland's tourism infrastructure pipeline?

Ms JONES: I thank the honourable member for his question. Everybody knows how passionate the member for Cairns is about growing the tourism industry here in Queensland. I am very proud to say that under our watch since we were elected the tourism infrastructure pipeline has grown by a whopping \$6 billion, supporting thousands of jobs right across Queensland. It is now worth more than \$14 billion across this state.

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Ms JONES: I take the interjection from the member for Broadwater. We will get to him. We know that one community that is still very upset about the loss of tourism jobs is the Sunshine Coast when the Hyatt lost the PGA Championship to the Gold Coast. No wonder the only member who is willing to put Palmer fourth instead of second is the member for Fairfax. How could Ted O'Brien look people in the eye in his community and say that he is willing to do a deal with the Palmer united party? The PGA was worth hundreds of millions of dollars and a long-term deal since 2002 on the Sunshine Coast. It was completely wrecked by Palmer when he decided he wanted to turn the PGA into putt-putt.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, you will table that.

Ms JONES: This is a man who unilaterally decided that he wanted to put dinosaurs all over the—

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock!

Ms JONES: I am happy to table it, Mr Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, you will table those documents. You will not consistently hold them up.

Ms JONES: I table those for the benefit of the House, Mr Speaker.

Tabled paper: Photograph depicting dinosaur at Palmer Cooloom resort [646].

Tabled paper: Photograph depicting Clive Palmer and dinosaur at Palmer Cooloom resort [647].

What we know is that this man—the man the LNP is happy to do a deal with—unilaterally decided to plonk his mate the dinosaur in the middle of that track and they lost the PGA. It is shameful. Six hundred jobs were lost. We know that he will sell out workers, whether it is on the Sunshine Coast or Townsville. When it became clear that workers two or three years after the closure in Townsville complained that they could not find work, Clive Palmer blamed them. He said it was their fault. It was because they were lazy and they were hopeless. Those were the words that Clive Palmer used—the workers were hopeless. This is further evidence that the LNP will get into bed with anyone if they think it will get them over the line.

Mr Dick: That is right; desperate.

Ms JONES: They are desperate. This talks to the chaos that we will see in Canberra if, God forbid, they were elected with Palmer having control of the Australian Senate. We have seen some other sackings in the last 24 hours. The good old member for Everton's numbers man has now been sacked unilaterally by Pauline Hanson. The question for the Leader of the Opposition is: given what we have seen from their mate 'Dicko' in the last 24 hours, is she willing to still do a deal with One Nation? If they stand up for family values, now is the time for them to show it.

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Moggill, you are warned under the standing orders.

Ambulance Service, Response Times

Mr COSTIGAN: My question is to the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. Will the minister explain why it took more than one hour for an ambulance to respond to a 71-year-old patient suffering multiple fractures after falling down the stairs at her home in Mackay's northern beaches on 24 November last year when the nearest QAS station is nine kilometres away, outside my electorate in Beaconsfield?

An incident having occurred in the public gallery—

Mr SPEAKER: Whose phone is that? It is in the gallery. Attendants, please ask the person in the gallery to remove that phone.

Dr MILES: I thank the member for Whitsunday for that question. Obviously I cannot and will not disclose individual patient information without their consent here or publicly, but I am happy to organise a briefing for the member with the ambulance commissioner where I am sure he will be able to outline the specifics of any occasion of which the member is aware.

Let me make this one observation. The LNP might have expelled the member for Whitsunday but they still appear to be giving him questions for question time. He still appears to be part of the question time strategy for those opposite. He is still on theme, still taking his orders and still voting with them all of the time. He might be sitting on the crossbench but he is not really on the crossbench, is he? He is still part of the fold. They still have their arms around him in the halls of the parliament. He is still—

A government member interjected.

Dr MILES: Oh, yes. He had a mate in the former member for Buderim, but he lost him and then he just lost him again I think. It is little surprise of course because the member for Whitsunday sat back as a member of the LNP government while they cut 32 staff from hospitals in his region. He never said a word about it then. Now that he is an independent, he still will not say a word about it. He will not say a word about the cuts of \$12.9 million that the federal LNP have made to the Mackay HHS. If you want to come in and be an independent and defend your community, maybe you could talk about those things, or maybe you could welcome the initiatives—

Opposition members: You!

Dr MILES: The member could welcome the initiatives delivered by the Palaszczuk government in his region—such as the Proserpine Hospital acute primary care clinic refurbishment, an investment of \$1.5 million in his electorate; the Proserpine Hospital emergency department refurbishment, \$1.492 million in his electorate; or the Proserpine Hospital kitchen upgrade, completed at \$1.338 million. These are all investments made by the Palaszczuk government in the member's electorate. Now that he is supposedly independent and he was supposedly kicked out by the member for Nanango, I would urge him to maybe start being independent and start acknowledging that the best interests of health care in his electorate are delivered by the Palaszczuk government and will be further delivered by the election of a Shorten Labor government and the Labor candidate in the seat of Dawson.

Mr SPEAKER: I remind members that there will be no interjections by those members on warnings. I also remind members that your comments will come through the chair. You will not reduce the dignity of the House by directly putting your comments to other members.

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Resources Industry

Mr HARPER: My question is to the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy. Could the minister advise the House of our government's support for the resource industry—

Opposition member interjected.

Mr HARPER:—and the jobs it supports and how that is balanced with the community concerns around environmental and other impacts?

Mr SPEAKER: Before the minister answers the question, I could not figure out which member to my left it was who interjected but I have asked for silence during questions. That will be the last warning on that today.

Dr LYNHAM: I thank the member for the question who, along with the member for Townsville and my ministerial colleague Minister O'Rourke, is a strong supporter of the resources sector in this state. The Palaszczuk government is committed to growing a sustainable mining industry. This government also ensures that the resources sector has a strong social licence. That is why we reformed financial assurance and restored the community objection rights that the LNP tore away.

As the Premier has stated, the knitting nannas of the National Party have been in contact. Mr Last wrote to me with regard to a coal project near Clermont that could affect native wildlife and tourism. The letter further requested that the community be properly consulted. Here we have a supposedly pro resources shadow spokesperson raising his serious concerns about a mine proceeding, yet it was the LNP government, with the member for Nanango as the assistant treasurer, that stripped the community of its right to object to mining leases.

Where are they? For one thing, obviously the Leader of the Opposition does not see eye to eye with her mines spokesperson. Who has the 'Stop Adani' T-shirt on and who has the 'Start Adani' T-shirt on? I am confused. I can see them both up at Clermont—with the member for Nanango sitting there with Matt Canavan holding a lump of coal, while the member for Burdekin is down the road sipping on a chai latte with Bob Brown. We have to ask: is that really a pro coal activist for Nanango sitting over there? We do not know. The member mimes hollow words about support for mining but that is only if the mine is not in Nanango. What is it? Is it stripping away the community objecting to a coalmine, or is the member for Nanango joining with concerned citizens, including the member for Burdekin, to stop a coalmine at Clermont?

They want the road to Damascus, but they could not even find the road to Clermont. They got lost. They could not choose between the EV convoy and the LNP horse and cart. They are stuck between a decision and a policy and have decided that confusion is the place to rest. Even the LNP horse was confused and alarmed when they stopped at an EV charging station. When it comes to our resources sector, only Labor can maintain the balance of jobs, economic growth and environmental protection.

Townsville, Youth Justice

Mr POWELL: My question without notice is to the Premier. Will the Premier guarantee the safety of Townsville residents following the escape of offenders from the supervised community accommodation by ensuring that no more escapes occur?

Ms PALASZCZUK: As we know, the issue of youth justice is a complex one. We have heard the minister speak in this House on many occasions about how many of these young people come from broken families and many of them are involved in addictions, such as ice and other serious drugs. This needs a whole-of-community approach, and that is exactly what I have tasked the Minister for Youth to look at and she is delivering on that.

As I said in an answer to a previous question, there are around a dozen young people in these supported accommodations at the moment. We have strong NGOs that are working with these young people. The best thing we can give these young people, as I have said in this House many times before, is a job. That is why I fully support training and reskilling for these young people to give that opportunity to them. It reminds me of a story from when I was up at the Sunshine Coast. I was approached by a man and he said to me, 'Your father turned my life around.' When he was in youth detention, my father told him he had to make a very big choice about whether he stayed in that youth detention facility or he got a job. He said to me that he is now raising his family on the Sunshine Coast. He has a couple of children and he now has a permanent, long-term, secure job.

One person can make a difference to the lives of these young people. The community—government, community, business, everyone—needs to work together in the best interests of that young child to provide decent, long-term, secure employment.

Electoral Donations, High Court Decision

Mr POWER: My question is to the Attorney-General and the Minister for Justice. Can the Attorney-General please update the House on the recent High Court decision regarding electoral donations?

Mrs D'ATH: I thank the member for Logan for his question. I know of his commitment to transparency and accountability around our electoral laws and candidates and political parties. Recently, we had a significant decision handed down in the High Court. As we know, one of the first pieces of legislation of the Palaszczuk government was in relation to bringing the disclosure down from at that stage over \$12,000 to \$1,000 or more.

Mr Molhoek interjected.

Mrs D'ATH: When we introduced real-time disclosure, the LNP took offence as they did not believe they needed to actually comply with those laws. This was taken to the Supreme Court of Queensland and tested. The Supreme Court upheld the Palaszczuk government's laws around transparency and accountability.

Mr Molhoek interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Southport!

Mrs D'ATH: The LNP then took that to the Court of Appeal and that decision is pending currently. Then the Palaszczuk government went further—

Mr Molhoek interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Southport, you are warned under the standing orders.

Mrs D'ATH: The Palaszczuk government went further in line with the recommendations from the CCC in relation to Belcarra and said that we should ban developer donations for local government. The Premier rightly said that what is right for local government is right for state government and we should make sure that the perception of influence when it comes to developer donations and planning decisions is removed, and we did that. Proudly, we did that.

Of course, the then president of the LNP took offence at that and took the matter to the High Court of Australia to say that these laws are invalid. If that was not enough, to try to cover the backsides of the LNP, Scott Morrison, the Prime Minister of this country, introduced amendments to undermine every state's and territory's laws when it comes to disclosure. Not only did they have a back door, but they had open doors at the front saying, 'It's okay. You can avoid the state laws because we have this new amendment.' Didn't they get caught out, because what we have is a High Court decision on 17 April that says to the questions, in summary: are our electoral laws in relation to developer donations—both the Electoral Act and the local government legislation—invalid? Answer: no. Are they invalid because

they are beyond the powers of the parliament? No. Are they invalid because of an impermissible burden of implied freedom? No. Are they invalid because of section 109 of the Commonwealth? No, but is section 302CA of the Commonwealth Electoral Act that Scott Morrison brought in invalid because it is beyond the Commonwealth legislative powers?

(Time expired)

Bus Services, Child Safety

Mr BENNETT: My question is to the Premier. I refer to Minister Bailey's failure to respond to the father who contacted the minister about his daughter being left behind at a bus stop six times. Has the Palaszczuk government walked away from the Daniel Morcombe 'no child left behind' policy, given the minister's failure to respond?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I will find out more information for the honourable member and ask the minister to respond directly to him.

Morrison Federal Government, Health Services

Ms LUI: My question is of the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services. Will the minister tell the House what impact the Morrison government's election policy will have on health care in Queensland?

Dr MILES: I thank the member for Cook for her question. I know she is concerned, as I am, about how the Morrison government's budget locked in cuts to health services in her electorate and indeed right across this state. It locked in \$32.9 million of cuts to the Cairns HHS and \$1.1 million of cuts to the Torres and Cape HHS. Those cuts are affecting the ability of our hospitals and our healthcare services to take care of the member for Cook's constituents just as they are affecting our ability to deliver health services right across this state.

On 18 May Queenslanders have a similar choice to make to the one they had at the last state election. At the last state election they had a choice between an LNP opposition that in government had cut 4,400 health workers and the Palaszczuk government that in government has now employed 5,963 more nurses and midwives, 2,017 more doctors—

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Broadwater, you are warned under the standing orders.

Dr MILES: We have employed 2,017 more doctors. Similarly, when the federal election comes around, the member for Cook's constituents will have a choice in Leichhardt between a party and a candidate who will lock in those cuts and a Shorten Labor government that will reverse those cuts. Not only will they reverse those cuts but they will fund a new emergency department at the Cairns Hospital—much needed and I know supported by our MPs there. They have the choice between that and the current government, the Morrison government, that will not fund the new emergency department in Cairns.

The member for Leichhardt cannot pretend not to know how important that project is because he was there with the member for Mudgeeraba just recently. I really hoped that after seeing the need for the emergency department there, one of them would have stood up for the health service, one of them would have said, 'We should fund the new emergency department there,' but neither did. That is why it is clear that Cook locals, just as Barron River locals, just as locals in the member for Cairns' electorate, will know on 18 May that they can vote for a Labor government and a Labor candidate who will reverse those cuts and fund a much needed emergency department. That is the choice those voters will have.

Mr SPEAKER: The period for question time has expired.

MOTION

Business Program



Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (11.14 am): In accordance with sessional order 2B, I move—


1. That the following government business will be considered this sitting week, with the nominated maximum periods of time as specified:
 - (a) the Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Amendment Bill, a maximum of 1 hour 30 minutes to complete all stages;

- (b) the Criminal Code and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and the Criminal Code and Other Legislation (Mason Jett Lee) Amendment Bill a maximum of 6 hours 30 minutes to complete all stages; and
 - (c) the Health and Wellbeing Bill to complete all stages in this week's sitting.
2. The following time limits for the bills listed in (1)(a) and (b) apply:
- (a) for the Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Amendment Bill, the minister to be called in reply by 30 minutes before the expiry of the maximum time;
 - (b) for the Criminal Code and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and the Criminal Code and Other Legislation (Mason Jett Lee) Amendment Bill, the member for Toowoomba South to be called in reply by 1 hour 30 minutes before the expiry of the maximum time;
 - (c) question on third reading to be put by 2 minutes before the expiry of the maximum time; and
 - (d) question on long title to be put by 1 minute before the expiry of the maximum time.
3. If the nominated stage of each bill has not been completed by the allocated time specified in paragraph 2, or by 5.55 pm on Thursday, 2 May 2019, Mr Speaker:
- (a) shall call upon the minister to table any explanatory notes to government amendments to be put;
 - (b) shall then put all remaining questions necessary to either pass that stage or pass the bill or motion without further debate;
 - (c) may interrupt non-specified business or debate on a bill or motion to complete the requirements of the motion; and
 - (d) will complete all stages required by this motion notwithstanding anything contained in standing and sessional orders.

In speaking to this motion, as always, I say every bill before this parliament is an important piece of legislation, and this week is no exception. We will be dealing with the Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Amendment Bill, which commenced last sitting week. We have already had 2½ hours of debate on this with an additional hour and a half, allowing for four hours of debate on this bill that I understand has the support of all sides of parliament, which I welcome.

Of course, we have very significant legislation, very sensitive legislation, in relation to the Criminal Code and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. This is being debated with the Criminal Code and Other Legislation (Mason Jett Lee) Amendment Bill in line with the motion I moved earlier today. Although this is a private member's bill and it could have sat on the notice paper for some months, the government believes that it is important and is deserving of a cognate debate, and as a sign of respect for those families who wish to be in the gallery and to listen to this debate, these two bills will be debated together. That is what we have sought to do in allocating sufficient time during this week for such an important debate to allow both myself as the Attorney-General and also the shadow Attorney-General to speak to these two bills as well as other members of the parliament. We will finish the week with the Health and Wellbeing Queensland Bill, on which I am sure many members wish to speak.

I do not intend to be repetitious and repeat the same thing that I say every week other than to say that we believe as a government that this business motion is seeing more business go through this parliament and there are more opportunities for speakers. In fact, we are seeing an increase in the number of speakers on bills as a consequence of the new sitting hours and business motion. For that reason, I commend this motion to the House.

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (11.17 am): We will be opposing the motion before the House this week. As I indicated in the Business Committee meeting yesterday, for various reasons I do not believe enough members are getting the opportunity to speak on relevant bills. For instance look, at the issues of the day. When I said in the Business Committee meeting yesterday that we ought to be speaking about issues important to Queenslanders, we only have to look at what the government was doing this morning. They were talking about everything but state parliament—everything including the federal election and preferencing. They were calling it dirty preference deals. I wonder if they know that they have done a dirty preference deal with Clive Palmer in Townsville in the seat of Herbert. I wonder if they know they are preferencing Clive Palmer's candidate above the LNP in Herbert. Is that one of the minister's dirty little secret deals they have done?

Mr Nicholls: Dickson, Brisbane, Bonner, Petrie.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection. I table a copy of that.

Tabled paper: Photograph of how-to-vote cards for the electoral division of Herbert [\[648\]](#).

The three how-to-vote cards in the seat of Herbert show that the Labor Party have done this dodgy, dirty, secret deal with Clive Palmer, but they did not talk about that this morning. Now the Deputy Premier is smiling; she knows about these dirty, secret deals. She knows that her old mate Anthony Chisholm was trying to do the deal, but he was not the best negotiator and failed.

Mr Mander: She should have done it herself.

Mr BLEIJIE: Maybe they should have sent the Deputy Premier in to do the deal, to eyeball them like she does to get the deal across the line. What was going to be a fantastic deal for the Labor Party last week is now a dirty deal because they did not get the deal. Call it what it is.

These are the issues that we want to talk about but cannot because we do not have the opportunity in the parliament now under these business committee motions. If we had, we would have talked about those sorts of deals. We only have to look at Clive Palmer's press conference yesterday—14 minutes expressing all of the communication the Labor Party tried to have with him to get the deal across the line.

We are not going to cop the fact that they come in here this morning with a load of rubbish about dirty secret deals when they have done deals with Clive Palmer himself. If we look at last week, we had the health bill and the QCAT bill. I table the speaking list.

Tabled paper: Copy of speaking lists titled 'Health Bill' and 'QCAT Bill' [649].

More than 15 members of parliament were denied the opportunity to speak on those particular bills. Who could forget the chaos we saw last week? Up until the eleventh hour the parliament thought we were debating a bill to fix a loophole in the blue card legislation. We were 'all systems go' for the blue card debate, when all of a sudden the education minister stands up and does a second reading speech on the education bill. Prior to that the Leader of the House came in and moved an urgent amendment to the standing orders to move the education bill up in the order of priorities for the government. That is how chaotic this parliament is. Remember that every time the Leader of the House gets up she talks about transition and the smooth running of the parliament. Last sitting week was anything but smooth; it was chaotic. Members were running around looking for what they were speaking on—

An opposition member: That was the Labor members.

Mr BLEIJIE: Labor members, of course. Then, Mr Speaker, you had the government not being able to fill the agenda, so immediately after question time they had to do another federal political motion on the budget because they did not—

Mr Mander: It went well too.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take that interjection. I do not know who came up with the idea to put the Premier on the spot and do 10 minutes espousing the Labor Party's economic strategy. That was not the best strategy. But, I tell you what, when the LNP got up we told Queenslanders about the lack of economic strategy of the Labor Party: taxes, taxes, taxes. That is all it is: taxes, taxes and taxes. That is all federal Labor offer the people of Queensland and Australia: taxes, taxes, taxes. I was watching a different program last night to the Premier if she says that debate was a win for Bill Shorten.

An opposition member: *Game of Thrones*.

Mr BLEIJIE: It was before *Game of Thrones*. I take that interjection.


Mrs D'ATH: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Before getting to my point of order—relevance—I might say that the members who are interjecting over on the other side have already been warned.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Member for Redcliffe, I do not need your counselling on how to do my job. Member for Kawana, I ask you to come back to the debate, please.

Mr BLEIJIE: I thought that was what the point of order was going to be. I wondered how I got to four and a half minutes without mentioning the motion. I take your guidance, Mr Deputy Speaker. As we saw last week there was chaos, not knowing what the parliament was doing with the new structure of stability. It is anything but stable. This week we are still not debating the blue card loophole legislation. We have moved on from that. Last week it was so important—

(Time expired)


Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before we move on to the member for Murrumba, I do remind all members that there is a substantial list of those who have been warned by Mr Speaker, and that will continue until the 1 pm break.

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (11.22 am): I rise again this week to support the parliamentary Business Committee motion moved by the Leader of the House. It is again a sensible motion and the result of a sensible discussion by the committee last night.

I note that the member for Kawana again outlined his opposition to this process and pointed to his belief that more members would like to have a say on these bills than will be able to in the time allowed. He did not acknowledge the information that the Leader of the House has been able to provide, which very clearly confirms that more people are getting more opportunities to speak on more bills under these arrangements than the arrangements that were in place prior. The member for Kawana noted his opposition and then moved off the topic of the motion to seemingly less relevant matters: a surprising and lengthy defence of Clive Palmer, which the House probably did not need and I am not sure reflects the views of his constituents.

I imagine that the only place Clive Palmer is less popular than the Sunshine Coast would be Townsville, but the LNP came in here anyway and stood up for their mate, Clive Palmer, and stood up for the deal that Scott Morrison has done to desperately try to cling to power with the help of Clive Palmer and One Nation. The state LNP should be able to tell their federal counterparts how those kinds of deals end: not well. They did not work out very well for them at the state election, and I do not think that the member for Kawana's defence is much help to anyone. It is not much help to Clive Palmer, not much help to the Morrison government and certainly not much help to those opposite.

The motion moved by the Leader of the House gives the House significant time to deal with one bill that has already been debated, another bill to be cognately debated with the private member's bill which, as the Leader of the House has outlined, the government will agree to debate cognately, and what to me is a very important bill, the Health and Wellbeing Queensland Bill, which will create a new agency to help Queenslanders make healthier choices. I certainly look forward to the debate on all three of those, but of course in particular the bill that I brought to the House. I commend the Leader of the House's motions.

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (11.25 am): It gives me no pleasure to rise to oppose this motion this morning. There is something vaguely familiar about this debate. It is going to stay familiar, because on this side of the House we want to hear the voices of Queensland in this parliament. Again and again we have seen debate curtailed. We have seen speakers sat down. We have seen a lack of appropriate scrutiny of government legislation. When I look at the business program motion today I see there are a few bills: the education bill, an hour and 30 minutes; the child killer bill, six hours and 30 minutes—which I will return to shortly—and then the health and wellbeing bill, to be completed during the week. Sometimes it is not so much what is up for debate but what is missing. What is not up for debate this week?

Last sitting week there were three bills on the agenda: an economic development bill, a health bill and a QCAT bill. Again the government was busy curtailing debate in relation to these three bills and, funnily enough, we ran out of time. There was only a couple of hours—two, 2½ hours, three hours—for debate on each of these three bills. About midweek I think the Leader of the House realised, 'We're not going to have enough to debate this week,' so it was flagged that the blue card bill would be up for debate. We had proposed amendments in the public arena. It had been on the agenda for some time. There had been some scrutiny of these amendments. There had been a briefing. At the eleventh hour—not even at the eleventh hour—at the eleventh hour and 59th minute the government decided to pull debate on the blue card bill.

That should send a shiver down the spine of every Queensland parent because there are loopholes in the blue card bill that you could drive a proverbial truck through. You could drive a proverbial truck through some of the loopholes—

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member is now anticipating the debate and we ask that he stick to the business motion.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Member for Toowoomba South, I counsel you that you are heading down that path. You will have plenty of time during the debate, but I ask you not to pre-empt the debate.

Mr JANETZKI: It is not so much that the debate was not conducted in relation to that bill last week, but with hundreds of lawyers and thousands of bureaucrats why isn't the bill being debated this week? What has occurred in the last three weeks that has seen this bill completely disappear when children's safety is at risk? What has happened? What have the Attorney-General and the Leader of the House been doing for the last three weeks? Why is the bill not on the agenda this week?

I want to turn back now to a bill under consideration this week, and that is the child killer bill. I acknowledge that the Attorney-General has agreed to cognate these debates, and we appreciate that, but as shadow Attorney-General I have concerns about the 6½ hours assigned for this debate.

In the gallery are the parents of Hemi Goodwin-Burke, Shane and Kerri-Ann. I have had the great privilege of meeting with many families and victims of crime around Queensland. They have lost their precious loved ones, who were subjected to crime of a most horrendous nature. The personal stories of these individuals would fill up 6½ hours on their own.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Toowoomba South, I think you are again heading down the road of debating the bill before it has been brought to the House for its second reading debate. I ask you to come back to the motion. The next time I interrupt, I will ask you to resume your seat.

Mr JANETZKI: Six and a half hours for the cognate debate of the child killer bills does not even touch the sides of the pain and suffering that so many families throughout Queensland have felt in relation to these matters. I personally will speak in the debate about their pain and suffering. Their stories need to be told.

Mr Bleijie: We need more time.

Mr JANETZKI: I take that interjection from the Manager of Opposition Business: we need more time. Six and a half hours does not cut it. The stories of these families and these victims of crime deserve to be told. We on this side of the House are determined to tell them. We do not want to be curtailed by an arbitrary time limit of 6½ hours. That seeks to silence the voices of Queenslanders who have lost everything—their precious children, their loved ones. This Labor government continues to shut down the voices of Queenslanders. We on this side of the House will not stand for it.

(Time expired)

Division: Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

AYES, 47:

ALP, 46—Bailey, Brown, Butcher, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Jones, Kelly, King, Lauga, Linard, Lui, Lynham, Madden, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Miller, Mullen, B. O'Rourke, C. O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Pegg, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Stewart, Trad, Whiting.

Ind, 1—Bolton.

NOES, 42:

LNP, 37—Bates, Batt, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyce, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Hart, Hunt, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McArdle, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Sorensen, Stevens, Stuckey, Watts, Weir, Wilson.

KAP, 3—Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

PHON, 1—Andrew.

Ind, 1—Costigan.

Pair: Boyd, Crandon.


Resolved in the affirmative.

EDUCATION (QUEENSLAND COLLEGE OF TEACHERS) AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from 4 April (see p. 1188), on motion of Ms Grace—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (11.36 am), continuing: I rise to complete my contribution in respect of the Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Amendment Bill. I remind the House that the objective of this bill is to create a certification process in Queensland consistent with the national framework that recognises high-performing teachers and encourage them to continue their role as classroom teachers.


In my previous contribution to the debate of this bill I spoke at length about some of the outstanding teachers at the 18-odd schools in the electorate of Southport. I can assure the House that there are many hardworking teachers in my electorate. There are many fine educators who are absolutely committed to better outcomes for our young people. Sadly, it would appear that the minister is perhaps not as committed to those outcomes.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms McMillan): Member, your time has expired.

Mr MOLHOEK: I had three minutes remaining.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am advised that you had one minute remaining from last time. I ask you to resume your seat.

(Time expired)

 **Mrs LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (11.38 am): I rise to speak to the Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Amendment Bill. Today I will very proudly talk about teachers. I think we should celebrate, admire and be grateful for the dedication of teachers to the future of our children. I have seen firsthand the sheer hard work, determination, dedication and passion that goes into teachers' work. My mum has been a state school teacher for over 25 years. Every day she would get to work early and stay late. She would work on weekends and public holidays. Recently when she took long service leave she spent each day marking instead of relaxing. I said, 'Mum, that's really not what long service leave is for,' but she is so dedicated to her job. I am so incredibly proud that she has instilled in me a belief in the importance of a good quality education no matter where in Queensland people live.

I was also fortunate recently to attend the professional development day for teachers at Parkhurst State School. The teachers could not help but teach me—

Mr Pegg: My brother attended there.

Mrs LAUGA: I take that interjection. The teachers could not help but teach me that day about reading assessment. It was great. I loved learning about the way in which they teach reading and about the work they do.

It is not easy to teach. Teachers have so much patience and creativity. They are so incredibly invested in getting the best outcomes for their students. The teachers I meet with and speak to seem to be always thinking about creative and innovative ways to teach their students and about how to engage the different learning styles of students.

I was also incredibly impressed when I visited Parkhurst State School on the first day of school this year. I got to see two prep teachers in action on the first day of school. In fact, for one of the teachers it was the first day of her career. I am sure the first day of school was incredibly nerve wracking for the prep students, this teacher and the parents. The new prep teacher sailed through with flying colours.


That day I was also able to witness another prep classroom with a teacher who had years and years and years of experience who probably would qualify for the HAT or LT qualification, and she also sailed through with flying colours. It was so amazing to see the experience of that teacher at work and the way that both teachers had put so much effort and planning into setting up that day to make it as easy as possible for those two prep classes.

We know that an excellent teacher with strong professional skills, motivation and commitment can account for up to a 30 per cent difference in the achievement between students. Given the significant difference that teachers can make to a student's performance, it is also important therefore to attract the best talent to teaching. Teachers need meaningful career pathways that cultivate and recognise expertise through appropriate remuneration and role allocation. This is how the HAT and LT roles will support our experienced and best teachers. It will give a real pathway that cultivates and recognises expertise.

To create a world-class teaching workforce, teaching needs to be an appealing and valued profession. Teachers must be valued for the critical role that they play in educating our young Australians. We are cultivating a profession of expert educators by creating meaningful career pathways with the HAT and LT classification by strongly valuing their expertise and impact. Improving our education system largely depends on ensuring that competent people want to work as teachers and that existing experienced teachers feel that they are valued. Teaching must be a high status profession of expert educators. We know, though, that between 30 per cent and 50 per cent of Australian teachers leave the profession within the first five years, and feeling undervalued is one of the primary reasons for leaving the profession. Last year I held a drinks afternoon for World Teachers Day for teachers in my electorate. After hosting them on a Friday afternoon for a few drinks, they were so grateful to feel valued by their local member and to be invited along to celebrate with a few drinks for World Teachers Day. That just goes to show how much those teachers really enjoyed the opportunity to feel valued.

Teachers are subject to so many negative perceptions which impact not only how others see them but also how they see themselves. Their work is often undervalued and the perception that teachers are overworked and underpaid serves as a career disincentive for some. Deeper change targeting perceptions and mindsets about the profession and education is needed, so I am calling on parents and students everywhere to love their teachers. Celebrate your teachers. Appreciate them.

Work with your teacher or your child's teacher. Get involved in your child's learning. Get involved in your child's school. The teachers who are engaged with your children are there for one reason, and that is to give them a better opportunity and a better start to life. Parents and students need to work together with teachers and value them more because teachers need a little bit more support from the community to help them feel that they are a valued occupation and a valued part of our community. This bill is a good bill. It is a good bill that will help teachers. It will provide support to teachers and provide a great career pathway for teachers. This is something that we have been talking about and that we as a government have committed to. I commend the bill to the House.


 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (11.44 am): I rise to make a contribution to the Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Amendment Bill 2019. From the outset the bill creates a process in Queensland, consistent with the national framework, that recognises high-performing teachers and encourages them to continue their role as a classroom teacher and also enables the Queensland College of Teachers to perform the role of certifying authority for the certification of highly accomplished teachers and lead teachers. This is a good idea in that we need to ensure that we keep good, high-quality teachers in the profession. Previously, the only career path teachers had going for them was to go into more of an administration role or management role by becoming a deputy principal, principal or executive principal at a school.

Like everybody else in this chamber who is very proud of their local schools, there are some fantastic schools in the Theodore electorate such as Upper Coomera State College, Coomera State School, Helensvale State School, Highland Reserve State School, Oxenford State School, Park Lake State School, Gaven State School and Helensvale State High School. My electorate is certainly very much blessed and there are some fantastic principals and excellent teaching staff at these schools. However, retaining these great teachers is certainly an issue that I have dealt with many times in the past.

I remember back in the day when Rosemary Menkens was the committee chair for the education committee which held an inquiry into retaining teachers in mathematics, chemistry and physics subjects. They are a very important field for our developing economy in Queensland—that is, getting high-performing teachers to do these more science and mathematical subjects. However, that inquiry heard about the losses of these individuals in those areas. I ask the minister to comment on how many additional chemistry, physics and mathematics teachers there are since 2015. That was an issue back then and I am sure it is still an issue in terms of keeping these teachers in the occupation because there are a lot of incentives for them to leave the profession and take their skills sets elsewhere.

I will always remember a very wonderful teacher, Mr Randall. He left the profession only a couple of years ago but a bit early. As he would say, he felt that his job was a dead-end job or a dead-end occupation. As there are other members who want to speak on this matter, I will keep my comments reasonably short. However, there is one comment that I want to pass on from some individuals in the profession with regard to the pay brackets of these new high-performing teachers. Deputy principals take on a more managerial role. There is a lot more work in that position with respect to running the school, organising teachers and organising the day-to-day running of the school, as do principals. There was a comment made by somebody down my way who was concerned about the current pay set-up and who thought that it would be more appropriate to give deputy principals and principals a pay rise because of the roles that they play in terms of the running of a school.

I can certainly say that, on a regular basis, a lot of the principals in my electorate would be working back at their schools at seven o'clock, eight o'clock, or nine o'clock at night and would then be back at their schools by six o'clock in the morning to get the day's work underway. That shows the extreme hours that these individuals put in to running these fantastic facilities. On behalf of the educators in my electorate, I wanted to express those concerns.

 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (11.49 am): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Amendment Bill 2019. I support this amendment bill and acknowledge the opportunity that this bill provides the teaching profession. I cannot think of too many professions that impact as many lives in such a meaningful way as our teaching profession. In essence, despite having had successful careers elsewhere, that is what attracted me to the teaching profession.

As a teenager, I studied to be a psychologist. In the 1990s, psychology was considered to be the biggest growth profession. That was a good fit for the ethos that my parents had instilled in me of putting others before self and measuring your worth by how much you could make a positive difference to other people's lives. I was happy with my university studies, but during my psychology studies I was really intrigued with the opportunity to focus on educational psychology, early childhood development and

sociology. The idea of becoming a practising psychologist was still a key driver, but I became more fascinated with the role of education in the life outcomes of individuals. It became clearer and clearer to me that I could consider spending a career counselling and helping people one on one, or I could be one of those people seeking to engage our younger people directly to provide opportunity, to provide support.

Although my psychology degree has been useful in certain circumstances, my biggest joy was obtaining my bachelor of secondary education. I loved it. English and history are two personal passions of mine and I was able to combine it with leading, supporting and cheering young people, introducing them to the wonders of knowledge and the power of inquiry. A young mind grasping and applying a new concept is a joy to behold.

My studies were not easy. I completed my full bachelor degree part-time, combining it with full-time policing, saving up all of my recreation leave to complete my practical teaching components. It was merely coincidental timing that I completed my bachelor of secondary education in the same cohort as my younger sister. I am sure our folks were proud and equally impressed at the opportunity to knock over two university graduations at the same time.

It is conversations with my sister that keep me attuned to what challenges our teachers are facing. I have followed her career from that first year: the hours and hours committed to building up her curriculum portfolios and resources, the occasional foray into random teaching subjects, all the weekend and after-school work with the junior secondary showcase programs, being voted Logan's favourite teacher, progressing to head of the drama department and now Mrs Vikki Kelly is head of junior school at Kingston College. She is now at the stage of her career where to progress she needs to leave the classroom. As head of the junior school, she has reduced class contact time but is reluctant to leave the classroom, because that is where job satisfaction is for teachers who truly wish to make a difference.

That is where this bill comes in. This bill provides a pathway, an opportunity for teachers who display quality teaching skills, who have committed many years to, and have a great passion for, the profession. This bill ensures that those teachers are not only recognised but also not lost to the classroom; they are not lost to the hundreds of young minds they have the opportunity to shape. Previously, the primary advancement for teachers was out of the classroom and either into the administration office or curriculum development. Great teachers in the name of professional advancement and the associated pay progression were leaving the classroom. Our young minds were being deprived of those who could have the biggest impact.

As with all things teaching related, I asked my sister what this amendment bill would mean to her and her colleagues. She said that it would be a fantastic opportunity to keep teachers who are passionate about teaching in the classroom. With the cost of living always on the rise, the pressure to earn more money is on every family. Many incredible teachers make the move up, but even more concerning is the number of teachers moving out of teaching altogether to find more financially rewarding ways to support their family. My sister said—


We've got the Senior Teacher and Experienced Senior Teacher processes but that's some 9 years into the profession when the drop out rates for teachers leaving in the first five years is greatly concerning to the profession. With highly accomplished teacher and lead teacher at least we may be able to keep some!

The designation of highly accomplished teacher and lead teacher will provide an additional career avenue for those highly qualified and experienced teachers to remain in the classroom. Although this designation will clearly benefit the teaching profession, it cannot be understated how it will benefit the thousands of kids in schools who will be engaged and influenced by our best and brightest teachers.

I support the decision to have the Queensland College of Teachers take on the role of certifying authority for the certification process for those applying. As the QCT is responsible for the registration of newly qualified and suitable teachers, it is ideally placed to take on the role of certification of the advanced levels of teaching.

Before I conclude this love letter to the teaching profession, I would like to acknowledge the dozens of state school teachers not only in my electorate but also for me specifically across the range of schools that I attended—from Tivoli in Ipswich, to Salisbury, to Graceville, to Runcorn and, finally, to Roma. I cannot say that I was an excellent student in school. I did what was required and mostly kept my head down, but just about all of my teachers would engage with me and encourage me to strive for better, to do more. In standing here, I really hope that I exceeded their expectations. I acknowledge Mrs Todd, Mr Grosset, Mr Bowler, Mrs Johnson and others in primary school. They loved the young

kids and they really saw it as their passion to see them improve. My history teachers, Mrs Elvey and Mr McKillop, sparked my interest in history and tolerated my very interactive approach to military history. My English teachers, Mrs Fenton and Ms Eagle, at Runcorn State High School nurtured my rather idiosyncratic creativity. Mr Murray helped me refine my crash editing skills in film studies. Who knew I would still be using that skill? I would like to think that many of these teachers would have benefited from the opportunity to have their skills in the classroom appropriately recognised, because I know that I benefited greatly from them individually and collectively. I commend this bill to the House.

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (11.56 am): I rise to speak in support of the Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Amendment Bill 2019. If we boil it down, this bill provides a certification process for high-performing teachers. If we have to pinpoint what that means, it means career advancement without the teacher having to leave the classroom. That is a wonderful and worthy objective that is worth supporting.

When we talk to people who are in public service across all professions, often we hear from them a reticence to progress through the ranks because it curtails the reason they entered that profession in the first place. Many police officers are happy to stay as a senior constable—not because they do not want more duties, not because they do not want to do other things in their career, but because they do not want to be stuck behind a desk. I certainly respect what drove them towards joining that service and that they do not want that to stop.

So it is with teachers. Many teachers have an opportunity to be the head of their school year. They have many opportunities to advance their careers, but their real passion is children and ensuring that each and every day they are able to shape the lives of those children in their classrooms. That does not for one moment in any way highlight that people cannot make a contribution without being in the classroom. From the principals to the janitors in our schools, everyone helps to provide an environment to make sure that our greatest asset, our children, are able to learn. There are those who do not want to leave the classroom, because that was their calling; that was the reason they embarked on that profession. This bill gives those teachers the ability to have the best of both worlds. So it is that I rise to speak in great support of this bill.


I say to our teachers across the state, and in particular to those in my electorate—I have the privilege of having three schools in my electorate: two state schools and a Catholic school—you are involved in a noble profession; you are involved in a profession that truly is valued and helps shape the kind of state we want into the future. This side of the House believes in an education system that rewards the best and brightest, that helps those who need a helping hand, a curriculum that is simplified and the ability to attend an independent public school. It is my pleasure to have the member for Surfers Paradise in the chamber at this time, the person who was the architect of that policy, a policy that works and a policy that I would always defend to ensure that it stays in this state because it allows for choice and we should all be about that.

I will conclude my remarks by saying that, while this bill highlights teaching standards, it would be remiss of me not to raise the issue of the standard of facilities in our schools. I will not stop fighting for the two state schools in my electorate where I do not believe the facilities are adequate and up to standard. Our teachers certainly are up to standard. The principals in those schools are very different people but both outstanding people. The principal of Coombabah State School, Murray Gleadhill, and the principal of Biggera Waters State School, Valerie Faulks, are outstanding leaders. To watch them walk through the school grounds and see the way they are revered by those children but also respected shows the incredible balance both of them have achieved. The facilities at their schools do not reflect the values that they set. The facilities do not reflect the quality of education given there. I will not stop in my fight for better facilities. That means a removal of buildings that were delivered on the back of a truck many decades before. They were probably not appropriate in that era, but they are certainly not appropriate in this era. I will not stop until those children have air conditioning in those schools.

Ms GRACE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I rise on the issue of relevance. At the last debate, on page 1177 of *Hansard*, the member for Gregory raised a point of order in relation to relevance when the member for Gympie interjected in relation to the issue of air conditioning. It was ruled that it was irrelevant and I ask that you bring the member back to the relevance of the bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stevens): Member, if you could bring your conversation back to the long title of the bill.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Indeed I will. I would urge the education minister to assist me in praising the teachers and in supporting this bill and also looking to address some of those facility issues. I will conclude my remarks by saying that this is a worthy piece of legislation. It is a piece of legislation that enables a noble and valued profession to be given a little bit more choice and, above all, it allows career advancement without teachers having to permanently leave the classroom.

 **Mr PEGG** (Stretton—ALP) (12.03 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Amendment Bill 2019. I want to echo some of the comments from previous speakers. It is prescient to hear from the member for Macalister who was a former Runcorn State High School student. I acknowledge the presence in the House, from Runcorn State High School, Principal Jo Soothill; Merv Swords, the head of senior school; school captains Ceasar Dilla and Grace Mantova; academic captains Kieran Tsiamis and Xiao Chen Sun; community captains Hamza Karimshah and Kowsar Mohamed; arts captains Eliza Clement and Penninah Denema; and sports captains Dora Leu and Cooper Punton. It is great to see you all here for this important debate.

It is fantastic to see those students here because the state government and this parliament has many important responsibilities, but I would argue that there is no more important responsibility than education. Our young people are our future. It is very, very important that we make sure that we provide the best possible learning environment for them.

While I was not fortunate enough to study at Runcorn State High School, I am a very proud product of state schooling—as was all of my family. I know how important it is to have appropriate training, qualification and recognition of our teachers. The reality is that you cannot be a student without a teacher. I am pretty sure that is the case. It is very, very important that we provide an environment to support our teachers, to recognise their abilities and also to support them to provide the best possible learning environment for all the students in this state and, in particular from my perspective, the electorate of Stretton.

I note that this bill will create a certification process in Queensland, which is consistent with the national framework, that will recognise high-performing teachers and encourage them to continue in their role as a classroom teacher. There are plenty of high-performing teachers in Stretton. Whether you look at Runcorn State High School, Stretton State College, Runcorn Heights State School, Kuraby State School, the Islamic College of Brisbane or Sunnybank Hills State School, there are plenty of high-performing teachers in the electorate of Stretton.


I also note that this bill will enable the Queensland College of Teachers to perform the role of certifying authority for the certification of highly accomplished teachers and lead teachers. It will also provide for an effective, transparent certification process with decisions subject to appropriate review.

I note the extensive consultation in relation to the bill taken by the minister as outlined in the explanatory notes which I think is more than appropriate. I want to talk about the importance of this national approach to certification. A national approach to recognise high-performing teachers and encourage them to continue as classroom teachers has been developed over some years through the council of education ministers. I note that the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership, which is a public company wholly owned by the Commonwealth government, established back in 2009 by the then Ministerial Council for Education, Early Childhood Development and Youth Affairs, provides national leadership for the Commonwealth, state and territory government by promoting excellence in the profession of teaching and school leadership. I think that is very important because, coming from the legal profession myself, which presents some challenges in relation to qualifications and moving between states, having a national approach will allow our great teachers—who we never want to lose from Queensland, however we do recognise that sometimes unfortunately they want to move for a whole range of different reasons—who do move interstate to have their qualifications and outstanding achievements appropriately recognised.

I note that the nationally agreed approach to certification of HAT and LT includes a pre assessment stage of self-assessment and professional discussion about readiness to apply for certification and that there is a two-stage assessment process that involves assessment of evidence, including a written statement addressing each of the professional standards, documents about teaching practice, assessment, professional learning and engagement, also referee statements and observation reports for lead teacher, description of an initiative they have led over at least six months and also direct observation of classroom practice and professional discussions with the applicant, nominated colleagues and the principal. That sounds like a pretty comprehensive certification process to me. It seems like a very stringent process.

I also note that the explanatory notes state that at the time of introduction of the bill New South Wales and the ACT had legislation that provides for the teacher registration authority to certify teachers as HAT or LT and in the Northern Territory the teacher registration authority is the certifying authority. It is very prescient and timely when you look at that national context for the minister to be introducing this bill at this particular time.

In conclusion, I commend this bill to the House. We have outstanding young people in the electorate of Stretton, outstanding young students, we have outstanding teachers and outstanding staff and principals and I hope that this bill will continue that progression of having outstanding learning outcomes and learning environments for young people in my electorate.

 **Mr O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (12.09 pm): Good teachers should be able to stay in the classroom without having to try to get a higher position to be paid more. We need to help them to do what they do best. That is the best form of investment we can make in our education system. The Education (College of Teachers) Amendment Bill before us will help deliver that. It is about letting our best teachers earn a similar amount to what they would earn if they were to take on a leadership role. Those roles are more administrative and have a lot more responsibilities that rightly do not allow the people in them to spend time in a classroom.

The framework set out by the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership allows for a progression from graduate to proficient to highly accomplished to lead teacher. We need to change the Education (College of Teachers) Act because, at the moment, the college cannot certify high-performing teachers when they aspire to and decide to put themselves forward to be a highly accomplished teacher or a lead teacher. Over the past couple of years in North Queensland a trial of this program saw 44 highly accomplished teachers and three lead teachers certified. It is fantastic to see 750 expressions of interest received for this year. Certification allows highly accomplished teachers to earn \$111,725 and lead teachers to earn \$121,975, which is a significant jump on the standard classroom teacher wage. The cost for teachers to apply will be \$850, \$650 if they progress to the second stage and then \$100 for every five years afterwards to renew.

A few weeks ago I met with local representatives from the Queensland Teachers Union who told me about what they are looking for in their EB9 campaign. Their biggest issues include salaries, how under the current system the gaps are too tight between lead teachers and principals, their workload, how much they do in their own time and promotional positions. I heard them out and I have no doubt that the government will give them a fair hearing as well.

I am proud of the schools in my area and the teachers who lead them. Every day they go above and beyond for our young people. I hope the system that this bill sets up will be taken up by Gold Coast teachers. I will mention a few examples of going above and beyond, which this new system will acknowledge.

Most days I have dealings with Labrador State School, because it is across the road from my office. Its principal is Steve Josey and he cares deeply for our Labrador kids. I am proud to work with him on some of their great community programs and extra initiatives that improve student wellbeing at the school, put them at ease to begin learning and make a difference to their whole being, not just their academic performance. One example is the brains, body and confidence program, which is run on a Friday morning. I have to add that my relationship with Mr Josey extends to being able to discuss at length the latest Marvel movies, such as *Avengers: Endgame*. He will be very happy that I have brought that up.

I represent one of the largest primary schools on the Gold Coast, Arundel State School. Its principal, Mike Kelly, shows his experience through the systems he has been able to bring in to make sure that every student is cared for, no matter what level they are at in their learning journey. Arundel students are encouraged by every teacher to Be Safe, Be Respectful, Be a Learner. Their hugely improved academic performance over the years is a testament to that, which is also seen in the young leaders that they are producing.

Julie-Anne McGuinness is at Musgrave Hill State School. She brings a unique style of leadership to a school that is valued by parents for its relatively small size and family feel. Musgrave Hill State School teachers show commitment and perseverance and its values based culture lets the students thrive.

There are two high schools in my electorate. Coombabah State High School is led by Chris Kern. He has driven his team to deliver outstanding sports and leadership programs. I have been fortunate to be involved in their northern collegiate program, which gives students with leadership potential the opportunity to hear from leaders, discuss strategies and methods, and learn from mentors.

Southport State Independent Public School is led by Executive Principal Nigel Hughes. Over the past decade the school has risen to be one of the most accomplished high schools on the Gold Coast. The teachers have worked hard in their specialisations, giving the school the second best overall result for the Gold Coast in terms of OPs and it is among the best in Queensland. I think they came fifth overall. The school's independent public school status has given it the freedom to personalise the school to get the best outcomes for its students.

Finally, I mention the excellence in education at Southport Special School, which is led by Susan Christensen who last year joined a committed teaching staff and parent collective at what is one of Queensland's largest special schools. The care that is shown to each student is outstanding. It gives confidence to parents that their students are treated with respect and dignity, and are being given every possible opportunity. Last year I had the great honour of attending the school's graduation ceremony. There were very few people in the room not moved to tears, myself included.

I have been lucky enough to be involved with all of those schools and at each I have seen teachers who would be ideal candidates for highly accomplished or lead teacher. They are educators who are so committed to their students that they need to stay in the classroom for their kids' sake, and also for the sakes of those less experienced teachers around them. New graduates are helped by learning from highly accomplished educators who are still in the classroom and can lead junior teachers by example.

I will wrap up by paying tribute to another outstanding teacher, my sister Emily O'Connor. Emily teaches grade 4 at Leichhardt State School. The lengths that Em goes to for the kids she teaches is simply extraordinary. Her students have a lot of difficulties, especially at home, and her commitment to them goes well past the classroom. I have known Em to buy them lunch if they come to school without food. She has helped to raise money to send kids to camp at Tallebudgera. Many of the kids at that school have never been to the beach. Like many teachers, my sister is an incredible role model. Those teachers do not work for the money, but if they want to stay in the classroom and continue to do the work that they love they should not have to choose between that and taking up another position that would take them away from it. I look forward to this system being implemented.



Hon. MC BAILEY (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (12.15 pm): I rise to support the bill, because access to and the provision of quality education are fundamental to us having a meritorious and equitable society where everybody can fulfil their potential. Everyone should be able to receive a quality education regardless of their background and status growing up. I am very much a proud product of the state school system and a good education. Everybody who seeks a good education and who puts in time and effort deserves outcomes. This bill will contribute to further improving our education system.

The bill provides for a nationally recognised certification framework in Queensland that recognises high-quality teachers and encourages them to continue their role as a classroom teacher. It enables the Queensland College of Teachers to perform the role of a certifying authority within the framework for the certification of highly accomplished teachers and lead teachers. It allows the college the provision to prescribe and collect fees for the purposes of assessment and certification, and it provides an effective and transparent certification process with decisions subject to appropriate review.

In short, we have to invest in our teachers. We have to retain them and give them every capacity to stay within the classroom if that is what they seek to do. It is fair to say that a lot of teachers have a calling and a passion for teaching, but they are also ordinary people with families and commitments. They ought to be able to progress through a career as other people can. This bill seeks to increase their capacity to have the career that they deserve, because, as other speakers have outlined, a lot of teachers put in a huge amount of effort outside normal working hours because they have such a passion for the job.

The bill invests absolutely in teachers and it recognises their leadership roles. There has been very strong collaboration with the Queensland College of Teachers, the Queensland Teachers Union and teachers, who are very supportive of the bill. This investment in them is reflected in the fact that from the pilot we now have 44 highly accomplished teachers and three lead teachers, and we are

looking to increase that number. During the expressions of interest process that occurred last year, more than 800 teachers applied. I think that is a very good barometer for the level of interest in this reform. I am very encouraged to see that as it is very important to see teachers remain in the classroom.

I have a high school teaching degree in history and drama, which might surprise a few people. During my education some teachers had a profound influence on me and I take this opportunity to pay tribute to them. They were highly accomplished teachers and lead teachers in their time. I mention Graham Iffland from Holland Park State School and Carolyn Lingard from Cavendish Road State High School. I also mention two teachers who are no longer with us: Chas Cameron and Neville Adams were humanities teachers at Cavendish Road State High School. They were all incredible mentors and leaders with strong values. They all had a strong commitment to two-way engagement, which is what good teaching is about.


I pay tribute to them and all the teachers in my electorate who give so much every day to the education of people in the Miller electorate. I have 12 schools in my electorate. I have Junction Park State School, Wellers Hill State School, Sherwood State School and Graceville State School. At Milperra school, they teach migrants and get them up to speed on English. They perform a phenomenal feeder role into other schools, often getting kids who do not really know much English to an incredibly proficient stage often within 12 months, and in 15 months they are at Chelmer. They do a magnificent job and work closely with the other schools in my electorate. There is Christ the King, St Elizabeth's, St Sebastian's, Yeronga State High School, Yeronga State School, Mary Mac and also Our Ladies at Annerley.

I make it a priority to get to as many P&Cs and P&Fs as I can to engage. I also have regular coffees with my principals to be in touch with what is going on in my schools. I take this opportunity not just to support this bill but also to thank from the bottom of my heart all the principals, teachers, staff, teacher aides as well as the parents who put in so much for their kids and who give so much time to their P&Cs and P&Fs. Their community ensures that not just their children but everyone's kids get a great education as well. As we enter fete season, I know that all members will attend a lot of fetes in the next three or four months. We see that spirit in action. Thank you to all those people in the education sector in my electorate.

I thank the Minister for Education and the member for McConnell for bringing in this bill. It is an important reform, one that was an election commitment of this Palaszczuk Labor government. We value education. It is a core value of the government and this is part of our reforms. I acknowledge the bipartisan support on this occasion for our reforms, and I think that is a good thing. We have to continue to invest and ensure that our education system evolves, because pedagogy keeps moving and changing.

Graceville State School in my electorate is doing some fascinating things with collaboration with primary school kids so that by the time they go to high school they already want to collaborate and that it is natural to them. We will see more and more of that in schools, but one of the key things to do that is to ensure that teachers who want to stay in the classroom are supported to stay in the classroom and have the satisfaction of having a proper career with proper remuneration and status. That is what this bill seeks to do.

I am very proud to be part of the Palaszczuk Labor government that is delivering on its election commitments on education and that understands that a meritorious and accessible high-quality education system is fundamental to our democracy and to our society. This bill that the Minister for Education has brought in is an important plank in continuing that process, which will be an evolving and never-ending process, so let us keep making our education system better every year.

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (12.22 pm): It is my pleasure to rise and speak to the Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Amendment Bill 2019. I will probably start with a bit of an anecdote. We heard stories from the member for Stretton about Runcorn High School, a school my sister Kate Langbroek attended. The member for Stretton pointed out to me that Kate is on its honour board as dux. I think it was an early year of the school's formation! Kate did very well there.

I come from a proud state schooling background. When we hear about the progress of teachers who may want to come out of the classroom, the same thing happened to my father who was a teacher. He is now 87 and retired, but when he first came to Australia he was sent to Boonah State School and then subsequently to Burleigh. We then went to New Guinea where he taught in the NSW system. He came back and was at Mayfield State School here in Brisbane but wanted to get out of the classroom. Of course, under the structures that I inherited as Minister for Education in the 54th Parliament, the only way after a certain number of years teaching—seven years—was that you became a senior teacher. I inherited this situation.

I went to the education ministers meetings where AITSL, the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership, established by the Commonwealth government in 2009, promoted excellence in the profession of teaching and school leadership, and developed the Australian professional standards for teachers. The four stages included graduate, proficient, highly accomplished teacher and lead teacher. Of course, we did not want people just to say, 'Well, you are a graduate,' and then seven years later, 'You are a senior but you will just stay in that role unless you want to go into administration.'

In the 1970s my father was at Mayfield State School and did a Masters degree at the University of New England. He did not want to go into administration but he did want to better himself. He did a Masters degree at the University of New England and became the teacher librarian at Runcorn State School. My mother was a teacher aide further up the road at Sunnybank Hills State School to which I know the member for Stretton referred. I went to Sunnybank State High after periods at Coorparoo State High and Brisbane State High.

When I became the minister, I was very privileged to participate in the progress of this national initiative to ensure a career path for teachers who wanted to go into administration to become subject leaders, deputy principals or principals but who also, importantly, wanted to be rewarded for their excellence in teaching. We have today heard numerous examples from members about those examples in their own schools. I have only two schools in my electorate, Surfers Paradise State School and St Vincent's Catholic School. As a former minister, it is quite strange to have the fewest number of any schools in my electorate of any of the 93 electorates in Queensland. Having said that, Surfers Paradise State School is a wonderful school. I have been privileged to attend many functions there as well.

My point really was more about the fact that back in the seventies my father was doing a Masters degree so he could better himself and become a teacher librarian. That is why we as a government in 2009 continued the work to develop these standards so that not everyone would become a highly accomplished teacher or lead teacher. That has been acknowledged by the number of applications that we see in terms of 750 applying most recently, but 44 highly accomplished and three lead teachers have been certified in Queensland. It means that not everyone will become 'highly accomplished' or 'lead'. Whilst we waited for this process, as a government we brought in Master teachers who were put into schools in our final year of government to assist teachers in particular aspects of education. That was something that we did as part of our policy, great teachers equals great results, and it was really only a precursor to highly accomplished teaching and lead teaching. I was pleased to see the minister like a tweet of the Premier relating to another LNP government initiative, the Premier's Anzac Prize, where 16 students—

An honourable member interjected.

Mr LANGBROEK: It is true, minister; before we became the government in 2012 there was no Anzac Prize for students to go to Europe. I commend the government for keeping going that particular initiative. I have seen many of the entries of those students in terms of the appreciation that they get about the Anzac tradition. Of course, last week in our electorates we all saw school students being recognised. The member for Miller, the minister, has acknowledged the bipartisan support for this. It is something that I also want to commend in terms of the support of this bill. The College of Teachers of course are administering it, and that is something that is very important.

I know that other members want to speak but, whilst it is important that we focus on these aspects of teaching and teaching quality, I was perplexed recently in terms of giving a marquee to my own state school. The communications department of the education department wrote to the school and said that, whilst the logo of the school is on the marquee, I was not allowed to display the words 'supported by JP Langbroek MP'. The words had to be 'provided by JP Langbroek MP'. If there is anything that exemplifies the difference between that side of the House and this side of the House, our focus is always on autonomy, teacher quality and discipline. Under Labor, we start to see more and more rules and regulations about little things such as what can be on a marquee, that it cannot be 'supported' but can be 'provided'.

Let us focus on teacher quality. That is an element of this bill that is important. Apart from that, I want to make sure that we acknowledge our state school teachers and in fact all teachers in our system, because of the importance of education, in changing the lives of people such as me who came here as a migrant, of my sister who is very well known as a communicator and of course of my parents who came first of all on that boat in 1962 to Queensland to give us a better life.



Mr DAMETTO (Hinchinbrook—KAP) (12.29 pm): I rise to give my contribution on the Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Amendment Bill 2019. I rise to speak in support of the bill as one of the members of the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee that had the opportunity to pull apart this bill and investigate it, going through the submissions from Queenslanders as well as the process of public hearings. We heard from the Independent Education Union of Australia, Independent Schools Queensland, the Queensland Catholic Education Commission, the Queensland College of Teachers and the Queensland Teachers' Union. Although everybody had something different to say when they gave evidence, most of the feedback was that they were in support of the bill and that this was the right thing to do. This is why after hearing their evidence I will be supporting this bill.

What Queenslander wouldn't back the idea of creating an environment where we retain some of our best teachers in the classroom? In the past we have seen a situation where we have been losing teachers to administration roles and to deputy principal and principal roles. That is not to say that that progression should not still happen for some teachers, but the reason teachers decide to go to university and take on the role of teaching is to make a difference in the classroom. Whether it is at Toobanna State School or the new North Shore State School, which I had the pleasure of opening with the minister only last year, we have some great quality teachers out there and we have some great schools. Keeping those teachers in those classrooms longer is something I am happy to stand up and support.

When talking to some of the schools in my electorate last year, the issue of how this will affect some of the smaller schools and whether we are going to have problems was raised with me—and I raised a question about this during the committee process. This was raised with me by one of the principals who is doing a lot of work for a very small school. When you are the principal of a small school you take on multiple responsibilities. She found that she was on a similar wage to a highly accomplished teacher who was teaching in her classroom. It was creating a little bit of argy-bargy between them as the teacher got to go home earlier because the principal had to put in extra hours, doing everything from staying back to run after-school care to prepping the classrooms in the morning. That is one thing I queried during the committee process. It seemed to be put to rest by the answers I received.

I am supportive of the Queensland College of Teachers being the authority to accredit highly accomplished teachers and lead teachers. I think that they are the right body to look after that assessment work. During the committee process I raised the question of whether we are going to see a situation where nearly everybody will become a highly accomplished teacher or lead teacher. That was also laid to rest after I got a better understanding of the rigorous testing and the high criteria that teachers have to meet to become a highly accomplished teacher or lead teacher. In saying that, I will be supporting this bill. I commend the bill to the House.



Mr McARDLE (Caloundra—LNP) (12.33 pm): I rise to make a short contribution to the Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Amendment Bill 2019, the object of which is to establish a framework that recognises performing teachers and encourages them to continue their role in and outside of the classroom. Members in this House have often referred to our children and our grandchildren. Having a good teacher or a set of good teachers is critical to establishing the foreground and platform for them as they develop through their lives and participate in society. The young ones we have today become the tradies, the scientists, the professionals and even the politicians of tomorrow.


When you consider some occupations that are lauded as being role models, you wonder why teachers are not seen more in that vein. Their work is significant, their work is deep and their work is long-lasting. When you consider the teachers who are good teachers, some of the things you consider are, firstly, the passion they bring to the job. They love the job. They love being with children. They have high expectations of themselves and also for their students. They care. They care for their students. They have a love of learning themselves, and they acknowledge that to be a teacher is indeed a privilege. The good teachers do that.

Consider Eddie Woo, the maths teacher from New South Wales. He has 300,000 subscribers to Wootube, where he teaches mathematics to children in a very simplistic manner, in a manner that attracts many children to him. Dr Kevin Larkin was last year awarded the Australian University Teacher of the Year. Dr Larkin has spent seven years inspiring and motivating preservice teachers and transformed how maths is taught. The point is this: though we acknowledge the best teachers, let us also acknowledge the teachers of the best teachers because they impart that initial love and care and professional standard to the teachers we take into our schools.

If we have the best teachers, we also have to have the best schools. I say to the education minister: we want Baringa state high school to be built now, not to open in 2021. Baringa state high school needs to open now. Importantly, between now and 2021 we need a bus that takes Baringa schoolchildren from Baringa to Meridan State College.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stevens): Member for Caloundra, could you return to the long title of the bill.

Mr McARDLE: I commend the bill to the House.


 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (12.36 pm): On rising to address the aspect of leading teachers and trying to retain great teachers in schools, I want to quickly praise those teachers who also take on administrative roles—teaching principals. I am blessed to have many of them in the electorate of Glass House, which has a lot of small schools. I particularly want to acknowledge Pam Carlile at Mount Mee State School who, alongside the year 5-6 teacher Sarah Summers, brought their kids to parliament recently in March for a tour and a barbecue. Shortly after I hosted that visit, I received a letter from the students. I want to read a couple of the quotes from them. One student said—

My favourite room was the green room because it's where we make all Queensland's important decisions. I wonder what it would be like to stand up and talk. I would be so nervous.

That came from Megan. Another student said—

It's unbelievable how old and original some of the buildings are and how important parliament—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stevens): Order! Member for Glass House, could you resume your seat, please. In accordance with the business program agreed to by the House, I call the minister to reply to the second reading debate.

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (12.37 pm), in reply: I thank all honourable members for their contribution on this debate on the Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Amendment Bill 2019. It is great to see some schoolchildren and teachers in the gallery, so welcome. I have already spoken in detail about the bill in the explanatory speech, but I will briefly outline its major features again.

The bill amends the Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Act 2005 to provide for a nationally recognised certification framework in Queensland that recognises high-quality teachers and encourages them to continue their role as a classroom teacher; enable the Queensland College of Teachers to perform the role of a certifying authority for the framework for the certification of highly accomplished teachers and lead teachers; and provide for an effective, transparent certification process, with decisions subject to appropriate review.

As I have previously noted, in its report after careful consideration, the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee made a single recommendation—that the bill be passed. Before the Palaszczuk government delivered on its commitment, the structure of the teaching profession often required teachers to choose between staying in the classroom or moving into administrative and school leadership positions to further their careers. Whichever way they choose, it is a great choice. While we are happy when excellent teachers become excellent principals and school leaders, it should not be their only choice.

This government firmly believes that the world-class education being delivered in Queensland creates opportunities for every young person from every background and in every community across the state. That is why this side of the House will continue to do everything we can to elevate teaching as a highly valued profession. That is one of the many things that will be achieved by the bill.

The Palaszczuk government believes that teachers deserve to be recognised and acknowledged for their hard work and professionalism. The member for Kawana was able to talk positively about teachers and teaching for about a hundred words before he showed his true colours and started to talk down the profession. Those on this side of the House do not ever question whether teachers are in the profession 'just for the money'. I take from some of the comments of those opposite that that clearly is not the case on the other side of the House.

We know that teachers work hard every day to give our children a world-class education. This government understands that there are particularly exceptional teachers who deserve to be recognised and appropriately remunerated for the educational leadership they demonstrate in the classroom. The standards used in the process are based on AITSL's Australian Professional Standards for Teachers. Teachers will need to demonstrate that they meet their highly accomplished or lead teacher standards through a portfolio submission and lesson observation.

The member for Kawana's reliance—unfortunately and of great concern—on NAPLAN as the sole indicator for a perceived slipping of standards in Queensland is an example of NAPLAN results being misused. This government knows and teachers know that student outcomes are not solely determined by NAPLAN outcomes. The Grattan Institute last year identified Queensland as a star performer in reading and numeracy outcomes; however, you will not hear the member for Kawana talk about this. Those opposite are only interested in talking down the profession. However, there were some lovely comments on both sides of the House during this debate, and I would like to thank members on both sides of the House for continuing the great work they do in supporting their schools and talking positively about the teaching profession.

I think the member for Pumicestone, unlike the member for Kawana, made it clear that she understands the important work of teachers and really appreciates the education profession. I would agree with the member that teaching is not just a job. Teachers are not doing what they do every day just for the money. I would agree with the member that teaching is indeed a calling. The matter of teacher education centres of excellence was raised. I assure the member that there were no plans to abandon the development of preservice teachers to teach in low SES schools. The department is working with its regions to increase the support provided to preservice and beginning teachers through new centres across the state.

The Palaszczuk government understands the need to support our graduate and early career teachers. We know that through early support in a teacher's career we will develop the highly accomplished teachers and lead teachers of the future. The Palaszczuk government acknowledges that there are great quality teachers and excellent teaching that already occurs in our classrooms each and every day. The purpose of this bill is to recognise and appropriately remunerate those teachers who are meeting the highly accomplished and lead teacher standards.

This bill is the result of a meticulous pilot program that developed a certification process with established procedures and capabilities that allows the Queensland College of Teachers to continue to perform the certifying role on an ongoing basis. The amendments in the bill provide for a rigorous framework suited to Queensland's education environment. There is an appropriate level of operational flexibility and adaptability to ensure the certification process can be practically implemented consistent with the national framework developed by AITSL. Queensland's framework is so good that the department and the college have been acknowledged for the national leadership shown in developing and implementing this certification process.

This is a great piece of legislation that will contribute to lifting the status of the teaching profession in Queensland and around the nation. I take this opportunity to thank every teacher, staff member, principal, school leadership staff, teacher aides, business service managers and everyone who works in schools. We know there are many from the gardener right through to the principal who do an excellent job in schools every day. I am very pleased and honoured as Minister for Education that there is bipartisan support for this bill. I commend the bill to the House.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stevens): Before I put the question to the House, I welcome student teachers and leaders from Brisbane Bayside State College in the electorate of Lytton.

Question put—That the bill be now read a second time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Consideration in Detail

Clauses 1 to 15, as read, agreed to.

Third Reading

Hon. G GRACE (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (12.44 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a third time.

Question put—That the bill be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Long Title

Hon. G GRACE (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (12.45 pm): I move—


That the long title of the bill be agreed to.

Question put—That the long title of the bill be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Comments by Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning, Apology

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (12.45 pm): On 3 and 4 April this year I made statements in the House to the effect that the Newman LNP government did not deliver a surplus when in government and that, by contrast, the Palaszczuk Labor government had delivered four in a row. In making these statements I principally relied on the statements made and issued by treasurers who have served in that position since 2012, particularly the member for Clayfield.

In his first budget the member for Clayfield announced a deficit of \$10.768 billion and predicted a return to surplus in 2014-15. In his speech and commentary he exclusively referred to fiscal deficit and fiscal surplus. In his second budget the member for Clayfield delayed the promised return to fiscal surplus to the 2015-16 financial year. In his third budget the member for Clayfield repeated that fiscal surplus would be achieved in 2015-16, and in that budget he also predicted a return to an operating surplus in 2014-15. To the best of my analysis this was the first time the then treasurer mentioned the concept of operating surplus in the budget speech.

I also note that subsequently on 18 December 2014 the then treasurer released the 2014-15 Mid Year Fiscal and Economic Review, or MYFER. In the MYFER document itself, the promised operating surplus for 2014-15 was revised into an operating deficit of \$64 million. The then treasurer's media release for MYFER did not include any reference to the operating surplus or operating deficit, repeating the delayed promise of fiscal surplus for 2015-16. In any case, given that the parliament was dissolved on 6 January 2015 the then treasurer's commission was terminated before he had the opportunity to deliver any result for 2014-15 or 2015-16.

I also note that for each of the budgets produced under the Palaszczuk Labor government our government has used the measure of operating surplus in budget speeches and media statements. By that measure, we have delivered surpluses for all of the budgets we have delivered. I have at all times relied on the descriptions applied by treasurers serving at the time of the budget, which I believe is fair and appropriate. However, I note that the member for Clayfield has since changed his approach to measuring surpluses and now wishes to adopt the operating surplus concept used by our government and most other governments. The member for Clayfield, relying on more recent budget papers produced by the Palaszczuk Labor government, has stated that the Newman LNP government delivered a surplus in 2013-14 and 2014-15.

I believe the reason for this retrospective change is a result of changed political priorities. In particular, when he was the treasurer the member for Clayfield sought to justify significant cuts to expenditure and staffing. Were he to admit an operating surplus when he was the treasurer he would have risked undermining the then LNP government's political message that their cuts and austerity measures were unavoidable. Having lost government as a result of these cuts and austerity measures, it now appears the member for Clayfield and the LNP are seeking to rewrite their own record, adopting a measure of operating surplus which the member for Clayfield mentioned in only one of his three budget speeches. Even when he mentioned the concept of an operating surplus in a budget speech it was to make a promise for a financial year that he did not complete: 2014-15. Having reviewed the matter, it is apparent that the LNP government by its own admission of its preferred measure of fiscal balance never delivered a surplus.

I also reject the claim that the LNP government was responsible for the 2014-15 budget outcome, as that outcome was subject to policy changes initiated by the incoming Palaszczuk Labor government. This included decisions in my then Health portfolio to make significant savings by cutting the wait time gimmick, advertising and consultants. However, I can clarify that the Newman LNP government did deliver an operating surplus in 2013-14, and it was according to a measure that they did not like and

rarely used. I regret relying on the words and statements of the former treasurer and member for Clayfield. As I am always happy to do, to the extent that I have inadvertently or unintentionally misled the House, I apologise.

CRIMINAL CODE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

CRIMINAL CODE AND OTHER LEGISLATION (MASON JETT LEE) AMENDMENT BILL

Criminal Code and Other Legislation Amendment Bill resumed from 12 February (see p. 39) and Criminal Code and Other Legislation (Mason Jett Lee) Amendment Bill resumed from 13 February (see p. 149).

Second Reading (Cognate Debate)



Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (12.50 pm): I move—

That the Criminal Code and Other Legislation Amendment Bill be now read a second time.

On 12 February 2019 I introduced the Criminal Code and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019, which is the government's bill, into this House. The government's bill was referred to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee for consideration, and on 16 April 2019 the committee tabled its report with just one recommendation—that the bill be passed.

The government bill seeks to expand the definition of murder and increase penalties for certain child harm related offences. The matters that we are debating today are both very serious and extremely sensitive in nature. All members of this House want to see an increase in sentences for the horrific child homicide offences we have all seen go before our courts. We all agree about what we want to deliver for victims and families, but the issue in question is how we best do that. We hold different views about this and I respect those different views, but we absolutely need to ensure that, in debating these different options before the House today and this week, we do so in a respectful and dignified manner as a sign of respect for the victims and their families.

In saying this I wish to acknowledge Kerri-Ann and Shane, the parents of Hemi Goodwin-Burke, and their daughter who is attending parliament this week along with Kerri-Ann's parents so they can watch the debate. I also acknowledge and thank them, along with many other family members, for their unwavering advocacy to see the laws changed in this state.

I note the LNP members of the committee issued a statement of reservation in relation to the government's bill, in which they state—

The amendments in this Bill, including expanding the definition of murder to include reckless indifference to human life, the new aggravating factor, and the changes to the offence 'failure to supply necessities' should strengthen the existing legal framework and may lead to increased sentences for child killers.

LNP committee members were also of the view that the government bill should only be passed in conjunction with the Criminal Code and Other Legislation (Mason Jett Lee) Amendment Bill 2019. I will address the statement of reservation in more detail shortly, but I hope it is not being suggested that in this debate it should be all or nothing.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the committee for its timely and detailed consideration of the government's bill. I have no doubt it was a difficult process, and I want to thank all of those family members of victims who came forward to give their personal stories. I thank the individuals and organisations who provided submissions and also those who gave evidence before the committee.

The Palaszczuk government recognises there is significant public concern about whether sentencing for criminal offences arising from the death of a child is meeting community expectations. When a child's life is cut short, particularly under violent circumstances, the person found guilty should suffer the consequences. This bill delivers on the Palaszczuk government's commitment to implement the recommendations of the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council report, *Sentencing for criminal offences arising from the death of a child: final report*, and to expand the definition of murder to include reckless indifference to human life.

The bill gives effect to recommendation 1 of QSAC's report by amending the Penalties and Sentences Act 1992 to introduce a new statutory aggravating factor for manslaughter of a child under 12 years. The new statutory aggravating factor will require that, when determining the appropriate sentence for an offender convicted of the manslaughter of a child under 12 years, a court must treat the child's defencelessness and vulnerability, having regard to the child's age, as an aggravating factor. This reform will ensure the community can have confidence that courts are focusing on the defencelessness and vulnerability of the child victim when sentencing an offender for child manslaughter. Such an approach will still allow courts to impose a sentence that is just in the individual circumstances of the case, while making clear the expectation that higher sentences should be imposed.

The new statutory aggravating factor will send a clear message to the community that violence against children of any kind is wrong and will not be tolerated. To ensure the new statutory aggravating factor achieves its legislative intention, it will be reviewed post commencement, consistent with recommendation 2 of QSAC's report. Recommendations 3 through to 8 do not require legislation to be implemented.

The government's bill also amends section 302 of the Criminal Code to expand the definition of murder by providing that a person commits murder if they have caused the death of another person by an act done or omission made with reckless indifference to human life. In its report QSAC acknowledged that many unlawful child killings in Queensland result in an offender being convicted of manslaughter rather than murder for a range of reasons, including difficulty in establishing intent, even where the death is due to physical abuse and violence. The issue of the legal elements required to establish the offence of murder was frequently raised with QSAC throughout its review. The decision to include recklessness as to death in the definition of murder reflects this government's view that a person who acts callously knowing that death is probable is just as blameworthy as the person who intends to kill another person.

The LNP members of the committee have raised concerns, based on New South Wales case law, that expanding the definition of murder to include reckless indifference to human life will not always result in a murder conviction, even when the killing includes acts of violence or gross negligence. The application of the government's expanded definition of murder will depend on the particular facts and circumstances of the case. Ultimately, investigating police and prosecutorial discretion will determine the appropriate charge after considering all of the admissible evidence.

Charge negotiations will be a matter for the independent Director of Public Prosecutions in accordance with the principles set out in the director's guidelines. Those guidelines state that the public interest is in the conviction of the guilty; however, the prosecution must always proceed on those charges which fairly represent the conduct that the crown can reasonably prove, and a plea of guilty will only be accepted if, after an analysis of all of the facts, it is in the general public interest. A plea of guilty will not be accepted in certain circumstances, including if it does not adequately reflect the gravity of the provable conduct of the accused.

Neither of the bills before the House today remove the independent Director of Public Prosecution's discretion to charge what in his expert opinion is able to be proved based on the admissible evidence available in a particular matter. As the member for Toowoomba South noted himself during his explanatory speech in relation to the private member's bill—

As always, the prosecution still has the discretion to charge a person with the offence of manslaughter if they reach the conclusion that that is appropriate.

Charging practices and plea negotiations were considered by QSAC in its report but it ultimately made no specific recommendations in this area. However, the government has accepted other recommendations which aim to improve the communication and support provided to the families of victims during the criminal justice process.

In relation to the LNP members' concerns that expanding the definition of murder to include reckless indifference to human life will not always result in a murder conviction, whilst no conviction is guaranteed, there are case examples where reckless murder in New South Wales has been successfully charged and convicted—for example, *SW v R*, which involved the tragic death of a seven-year-old girl as a result of neglect and starvation.

This government wants to see stronger sentences imposed when people take the lives of our most vulnerable—children, the elderly and the disabled. The expanded definition of murder in the government's bill is intended to provide police and prosecutors with a new weapon in the arsenal of law enforcement so that, where appropriate, killers can be charged with murder where death is caused by

an act or omission done with reckless indifference to human life. If convicted of murder, such offenders will face mandatory life imprisonment or an indefinite sentence and will not be eligible to apply for parole for at least 20 years.

While the amended definition of murder in the bill will capture a wider range of offending as murder, the intention is to only capture those cases at the 'higher end of culpability or blameworthiness'—that is, where a person does an act or omission knowing the probability that it would cause death. This is an appropriately high bar given the gravity of the consequences that follow from a murder conviction.

I also note the concerns of some stakeholders in relation to the proposed amendment and a lack of definition of 'reckless indifference' in the bill. I can reinforce the statements made during my explanatory speech that the expanded definition is not designed to capture tragic accidents—such as a parent who accidentally kills their child while backing out of their driveway or a parent who leaves their child unattended in the bath who subsequently drowns. A range of defences and excuses apply to the offence of murder, and the bill does not change this.

Debate, on motion of Mrs D'Ath, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm.

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Sargood, Mr S; Police Commissioner, Appointment; Police Resources



Mrs FRECKLINGTON (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.00 pm): The Queensland bush lost one of its true champions when Scott Sargood died in a gyrocopter crash near Charleville on 10 April. Scott was taken from us much, much too soon. He was just 54 years old and has left behind his wife Adma and two children, Mitch and Bonnie. Scott was a humble man but he loved the bush with all of his heart. When Labor unveiled its antifarmer laws, Scott decided to take a stand. It was Scott who handed me the Green Shirts petition containing some 17,000 signatures outside parliament just behind where we sit. That was where he spoke with passion about Queensland, about the land and about the Queensland people. Scotty and many others may have lost that fight, but he certainly won a place in the hearts of so many across Queensland.

Scott's life was celebrated in Toowoomba yesterday and his top quotes were included in the order of service. I would love to be able to recite one of them, but I do not think it is parliamentary. One that I think is fabulous is this: a negative thinker sees a difficulty in every opportunity, but a positive thinker sees an opportunity in every difficulty. That would sum up Scott Sargood and what his fight was like just outside these parliamentary doors. People like Scott do not come around very often, so he will be greatly missed. On behalf of the entire state opposition team and, in fact, the entire Queensland parliament I would like to pass on our thoughts and our prayers to Adma, Mitch and Bonnie who have been sadly left behind.

I welcome the appointment of Katarina Carroll as our new Police Commissioner. I, like many on our side of the chamber, have worked closely with her before. During the G20 I got to spend quite a bit of time with Katarina Carroll. It was the LNP who previously entrusted Katarina with tackling serious, systemic problems in the Fire Service when we appointed her Commissioner of Fire and Emergency Services. I congratulate Katarina Carroll on the work she has done in her role of Commissioner of Fire and Emergency Services and I wish her all the best as the new Police Commissioner of Queensland.

When it comes to crime, I believe the new commissioner is going to have her hands full. We know that with bosses like Annastacia Palaszczuk, the member for Inala, and the police minister, the member for Morayfield, we have seen crime escalate and go out of control in this state. It was the last LNP government that cut crime across the state and we drove the criminal gangs out of Queensland. We took strong action to ensure our communities were kept safe. What a stark contrast we see with the Palaszczuk Labor government. Their record on crime and keeping our communities safe is quite simply shameful. It is the Palaszczuk Labor government under the member for Inala as Premier and the member for Morayfield as the police minister who have cut the Police budget by \$44 million. They have also—

Mr Watts interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Crime up, police down. Thank you, member for Toowoomba North. They have also weakened our tough laws and refused to save Crime Stoppers. No wonder crime is going through the roof. It is no surprise that under the Labor state government robbery in this state has surged by a staggering 61 per cent; armed robbery is up by 46 per cent; serious assault is up by 35 per cent and car theft, something that one of the Labor members of parliament knows all about—

An honourable member interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: He does. I will take that interjection. He knows from personal experience due to having his own vehicle stolen with his face on it.

An opposition member: Why would they want to steal it?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Why would they?

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members.

A government member: He got it back.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I will take that interjection from someone on the Labor side who said that he got it back. However, he only got it back due to the hardworking nature of our police men and women across this great state. It is the police men and women who are working with less. They have softer laws and fewer resources to work with, yet crime is spiralling out of control.

Talking about that car that was stolen from the Labor member, the member for Stretton, car theft in Queensland is up by a staggering 45 per cent. With a record like that, with those figures, most governments would ensure they were doing everything they possibly could to crack down on crime, to do something about the criminals in this state, but instead what does the Palaszczuk Labor government do? They cut \$44 million out of the Police budget. They expect our police officers to do more with less. I attended a crime forum in the last couple of weeks in the South Burnett, where the good people of Murgon, Cherbourg and Goomeri are screaming out for assistance, and what do they get from the incompetent Labor government? They were told that they will have four more police officers. We have never heard a bigger load of baloney in our lives. There are people whose cars are getting flogged and whose houses are getting broken into. There was also a police prosecutor who woke up to a brick being struck to his head by a juvenile thug who had committed crime after crime after crime.

Mr Perrett: That is how bold they are.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: That is how bold the juveniles are in this state. What was the Labor minister's response? What is the Labor Premier's response? We have not had a response. It is exactly that. What is their response? 'Let's reduce the Police budget. Let's tell the good people of the Gold Coast, of Townsville, of the South Burnett, where crime is going out of control, that they don't deserve an eye in the sky—a police chopper—in Townsville.' What was that great quote from the member for Thuringowa? 'We need more coppers, not choppers.' That was the comment from that member—

Mr HARPER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take offence and ask that the comment be withdrawn. It was not me; she is misleading the House.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Member for Nanango, the member for Thuringowa has taken offence. Will you withdraw your comment, please.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I withdraw, but I know that it was a member for Townsville who made the statement 'more coppers, not choppers' in relation to the LNP's announcement that the people of Townsville deserve to have a—


Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. As we have learned from what occurred in Townsville today, where is the government's response in relation to the juveniles who have escaped from bail houses? They have left the door open, and we know that from the Premier's response this morning, 'Nothing to see here. It's okay.' There are still 12 in there. Do not worry about the safety of the good people of Townsville. What is this government's response to juvenile crime? In this state we have seen our watch houses full to overflowing with these juveniles. We have heard that they have been in there for weeks upon weeks without education. How did we hear that? Through the questioning of the state opposition LNP team, because we are the only ones in this House who will stand up for community

safety and the people of Queensland. It is only the LNP who are standing up for the Police Service in this great state because we know how hard those men and women have to work with the resources that this government has stripped out of the Police budget. I do wish the new Police Commissioner all the best with the reduction of police services across this great state. It is only the LNP that look after community safety in Queensland.

Gladstone Electorate; Resources Industry, Jobs

 **Mr BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (2.11 pm): I rise today to speak about something I am very passionate about: regional jobs in industry and the resources sector. Recently a supply chain expo was held in my electorate. It demonstrated the important role the resources sector plays in Queensland, especially central and regional Queensland. This expo was full of local suppliers who directly benefit from a thriving resources sector including local motels, car dealerships and engineering firms, to name just a few. In the last financial year a Queensland Resource Council report showed that total economic contribution to the Gladstone economy from the resource sector was 14,355 full-time employees and \$2.7 billion in gross regional product. Our government is completely focused on creating new jobs and growing new industries to make Queensland's economy fit for the future. We are a government committed to putting investment into industries of the future because that is where the jobs of the future are.

The LNG industry in Queensland is one example of this commitment. The first blueprint for Queensland's LNG industry was released on 17 September 2009 by a Queensland Labor government. It outlined the Queensland government's commitment to work with industry and local communities to ensure that the LNG industry was developed and progressed for the benefit of all Queenslanders. Labor backed and build the LNG pipeline. It is now a \$60 billion industry that provides thousands of ongoing jobs not only in the three LNG facilities in my electorate of Gladstone but in the many regional upstream areas to the west. We are seeing the same commitment and vision right now.

Our government has set out a 10-year biofutures road map and action plan. We have invested in giving businesses the confidence to start operations right here in Queensland. Now Queensland is leading the nation when it comes to the development of the bioenergy industry. We have seen an investment in biofuels from Southern Oil and the establishment of a pilot plant which has moved on to testing with the new Scania engine delivered the other week. Southern Oil's managing director, Tim Rose, has said many times that the decision to put the new refinery in Gladstone was made easier because of the Palaszczuk government's biofutures road map. He stated that it was 'the only forward-thinking policy in Australia in this critical area'.

Now the world is looking to hydrogen and yet again Queensland—and in fact Gladstone—is leading the way. The Palaszczuk government released the Advancing Queensland's hydrogen industry discussion paper for community and industry comment, and the responses received will inform the development of a hydrogen industry strategy for Queensland. Hydrogen has long been touted as a revolutionary new fuel source that could slash global carbon pollution and create a multibillion export industry for Australia, replacing the polluting fossil fuels used in vehicles, homes and industry. Labor has put a stake in the ground, saying that Gladstone will be the hub for hydrogen in the future. Gladstone will be where we make hydrogen; Gladstone will be where we export hydrogen; and Gladstone will be where we provide jobs for this industry.

I welcomed Bill Shorten's recent hydrogen announcement, which will deliver critical infrastructure like the hydrogen innovation hub. It will be based in the Gladstone electorate and ensure that, in partnership with industry, we research technology to get the commercialisation right and that, when hydrogen gets off the ground, it gets to off the ground in Gladstone in a big way. The Palaszczuk government understands that in Central Queensland jobs are vital. It is important that we diversify our economy and make sure we are powering the future.

Queensland is the largest global exporter of metallurgical coal and one of the world's largest producers of bauxite, zinc, lead and LNG because our government invests in and supports the resources sector in Queensland. The Gladstone Ports Corporation is at the centre of our resource sector locally and is supported by a workforce of over 700 people. The Gladstone port is Queensland's largest multicommodity trading port. Gladstone port has contributed \$869 million in dividends and taxes over the five years to June 2018 and invested millions in enhancing community spaces. This is an asset that those opposite wanted to sell.

Only Labor governments back the resources sector, only Labor governments back the jobs of the future, and only Labor backs working-class families in the Gladstone electorate.

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance



Mr MANDER (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.16 pm): We were entertained this morning by a ministerial statement from the Treasurer, who tried to wax lyrical about the economic performance of the current state Labor government. The only thing that was missing is that it should have begun with ‘once upon a time,’ because this Treasurer is in gaga land when we talk about the economic performance of this state. The very well respected CommSec *State of the states* report came out last week, and once again Queensland is wallowing down the bottom of the list when it comes to economic performance. Where did we come? We are coming sixth, only ahead of WA and the Northern Territory. That is not something to be proud of. Tasmania and South Australia are ahead of us, and that is an embarrassment to this state. This state, which was once the economic powerhouse of this country, is now wallowing down at the bottom.

We are sixth on four indicators. With regard to the other states, we are sixth in retail spending; we are sixth when it comes to equipment investment; we are sixth when it comes to construction work; and we are sixth when it comes to housing finance. This is an embarrassment for this state. Instead of owning that and coming up with policies to benefit this state, this Treasurer has her head in the sand. She continues to look for excuses and blames others for the economic incompetence that she displays herself. Last week the latest unemployment figures also came out, and embarrassingly this state has the second worst unemployment rate in the country at 6.1 per cent. It is very, very important to see how we stand in relation to different states and with the rest of the country.

Whilst we have a seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 6.1 per cent—this is the measurement the government likes to claim is the more accurate one—the national unemployment rate is five per cent, under the fantastic economic governance of the Morrison government. New South Wales and Victoria have unemployment rates starting with a ‘4’—and one of them has a Labor government, which is unbelievable. That is what this Treasurer—

An opposition member interjected.

Mr MANDER: I take that interjection. I should have said ‘once upon a time’ with that as well. This Treasurer has absolutely no idea when it comes to employment. We now have 162,000 Queenslanders unemployed. There was a jump of 20,000 in just one month. Last month unemployment was 5.4 per cent; this month it is 6.1 per cent. That is simply not good enough. This state government has no plan whatsoever.

Let us look at the record of the Palaszczuk government and the jobs that have been lost in the different industries. In the manufacturing sector, some 18,338 jobs have been lost in the four years of the Palaszczuk government. In the electricity, gas, water and waste services sector, 2,610 jobs have been lost. In professional, scientific and technical services, 9,189 jobs have been lost. The number of Queensland full-time jobs lost under the Palaszczuk government is 19,522 in retail and 4,259 in rental, hiring and real estate services. I could go on and on. These are not numbers, figures and statistics; these are mums and dads, brothers and sisters, sons and daughters who cannot get a job in this state.

All we see from those on the other side of this House is the blame game—blaming everybody but themselves. If it is not the Morrison government it is the Brisbane City Council. If it is not the Brisbane City Council it was the previous LNP government. This government has been in power for the past four years. Labor has been in power for 25 of the past 30 years. The blame lays squarely at their feet.

Youth Justice Initiatives



Hon. DE FARMER (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (2.21 pm): The community has a right to feel safe, and the community expects young people to be accountable for their actions. We know that in the longer term the best way to keep the community safe is by preventing young people from offending in the first place and from reoffending. That is why I was very pleased to announce today—I now advise the House—that the Palaszczuk Labor government is delivering a \$320 million package that forms the second major tranche of our youth justice reforms, which we are delivering following on from Bob Atkinson’s report into youth justice in Queensland. This brings us to a total investment of over \$550 million in youth justice reforms since we commenced the transition of 17-year-olds to the youth justice system in February last year, aligning us with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and with every other state and territory of Australia. This investment will see us building, extending and staffing both new and existing youth detention centres along with a range of initiatives across the sector aimed at reducing offending and reoffending.

We will construct a new 32-bed youth detention centre at Wacol, at an estimated total cost of approximately \$150 million, and we will invest \$27 million to build 16 more beds at the existing Brisbane Youth Detention Centre. This investment will expand the current statewide capacity from 254 to 302 beds, ensuring we have better and safer conditions for young people in detention and for our youth detention centre staff.


Even so, our focus remains firmly on reducing offending rates and preventing young people ever needing to be placed in detention. That is why as part of this funding I can announce a range of other initiatives, including community youth responses to crime hot spots in three locations—Brisbane, Ipswich and Cairns; enhanced youth and family wellbeing in partnership with Indigenous family wellbeing services; a transitional hub to divert young people from police custody in Mount Isa; community based supervision by Queensland police for high-risk young people on bail in South-East Queensland; eight specialist multi-agency response teams; extension of funding for an additional specialist Childrens Court magistrate; a Queensland youth partnership initiative with the retail sector to divert young people from crime; and continuation of the Townsville community response, including the high-risk youth court, after-hours youth diversion services and cultural mentoring.

We cannot keep doing the same things we have been doing in youth justice decade after decade and expect the results to be any different. That is why what we do in youth justice in this state will be based on evidence. We are seeing excellent early results in some of the programs in which we have already invested. In the Transition 2 Success program we are seeing a 59 per cent reduction in reoffending. In the restorative justice conferencing program we are seeing a 77 per cent reduction in reoffending and/or the diminishing of the extent of offending by young people. From the Townsville community youth response we are seeing a 25 per cent reduction in major offences from the high-risk offenders. These are great results, and this is what we want to see happening even more.

In February last year 17-year-olds were transitioned into the youth justice system. In February this year I asked former police commissioner Bob Atkinson, a man who has devoted his life to community safety, to advise me on the way forward for youth justice in Queensland. In July last year he delivered his 77 recommendations to me. We spent the ensuing months going across Queensland looking at the evidence and asking for input in terms of what we need to be doing in youth justice. In December last year the government responded to Bob Atkinson's recommendations and committed to implementing or implementing in principle. This announcement today is our first response to the recommendations Bob made. I was so pleased to have Bob beside me when I announced this second tranche of reforms.

People want two things: our streets to be safe and our kids to be safe. We are delivering both of those things. The Palaszczuk Labor government is committed to our young people and to our community. This is something we all need to be part of—the community, businesses and non-government organisations. Everyone across this House wants the best for our communities and for our kids. This is what we are delivering.

Member for Maryborough

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (2.26 pm): At the last sittings the member for Maryborough attacked the member for Hervey Bay. This attack was unjustified on the member for Hervey Bay, who this year is celebrating 10 years as representative of the good people of the Hervey-Wide Bay region. We know that the member for Hervey Bay has given not only the past 10 years but also many more years as a former great mayor for that region. He is a decent, honest and hardworking man. Long may his service continue. I back the decency, integrity and honesty of the member for Hervey Bay over the member for Maryborough any day of the week.

If you want to run for public office, you need to run on your record. Today I want to detail some concerning and alarming allegations that have been made against the member for Maryborough and his office staffer Mr Paul Freyer, an employee of the member for Maryborough. Allegations have been raised with my office concerning Ms Carolyn Packer. She alleges that the staff member of the member for Maryborough assaulted her in 2017 at the Maryborough RSL. She further alleges that in November 2017 at a town hall meeting the member for Maryborough himself pulled the shirt of Ms Packer and said some very unpleasant things. In a letter Ms Carolyn Packer states—

... at the Maryborough Town Hall about 7.30pm, I was walking between chairs to leave the meeting with a friend.

Mr SAUNDERS: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. This has been thoroughly investigated by the QPS. I take offence at the comments by the member for Kawana. I ask him to say it outside the House.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms McMillan): Member for Maryborough, the first part of your point of order is not a point of order. If you take personal offence, you are able to ask the member to withdraw the comments.

Mr SAUNDERS: Madam Deputy Speaker, I take your guidance. I ask the member to withdraw.

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw. The letter, which I will table, goes on to say—

As I passed, Bruce pulled on my shirt and said “you’re supporting grubs, their nothing then a pack of grubs and you’re supporting grubs”, your grub.

I replied the only grub is Paul Freyer who assaulted me and you did nothing to sort out the problem ...

I table the letter.

Tabled paper: Correspondence, dated 26 November 2017, from Ms Carolyn Packer to State Secretary of the Australian Labor Party, Mr Evan Moorhead, regarding an incident involving the member for Maryborough, Mr Bruce Saunders MP [\[650\]](#).

Further, a letter to the Premier—the Premier is implicit in this—from Ms Carolyn Packer—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Sorry to interrupt, member, but I have just been advised that the term ‘grub’ is unparliamentary, so I ask that you withdraw.

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw.

Opposition members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: It does not matter that it is in a quote. The member has withdrawn, and I do not need your advice.

Mr BLEIJIE: The letter to the Premier from Ms Carolyn Packer says that she wants to—

... finally bring to light, the culture of bullies within your ALP party?

I table a copy of that correspondence.

Tabled paper: Bundle of correspondence from Ms Carolyn Packer regarding a matter involving the office of the member for Maryborough, Mr Bruce Saunders MP [\[651\]](#).

There are also allegations that the member for Maryborough has sent letters from Labor lawyers threatening to sue his constituents for defamation. There are also allegations that Paul Freyer, his staff member, has sent letters to constituents threatening to sue. How many constituents is the member for Maryborough or his staff suing for defamation? There is also correspondence, which I will table, such as emails to the member for Sandgate and emails to Evan Moorhead working for the Premier of Queensland detailing these serious allegations.

What did they do? They knew everything but did not act. Do members recall Rick Williams? The Premier never acted on Rick Williams. That is because there is a bullying culture and cover up and intimidation in the Labor Party. What would we expect when the member for Maryborough himself said, and I quote from the *Fraser Coast Chronicle*—

I’m proud to be a union bloody thug,’ Mr Saunders told the crowd.

‘I’m a proud union thug.’ That is what the member for Maryborough said. I table the article.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Fraser Coast Chronicle*, dated 30 April 2017, titled ‘Bruce Saunders: I’m proud to be a union thug’ [\[652\]](#).

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Sorry, member, but the terms that you are using are unparliamentary, regardless of whether they are in a quote. I ask you to withdraw.

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw. Ms Carolyn Packer then went to the police to RTI the CCTV footage where she is alleging that Mr Paul Freyer assaulted her at the RSL, with the police refusing to release the five videos from the RSL. I table a copy of the RTI documents.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 19 June 2018, from Queensland Police Service, Senior Sergeant M McGhie, to Ms Carolyn Packer regarding an application under the Right to Information Act [\[653\]](#).

Thankfully, the RSL wrote to Ms Carolyn Packer in a letter dated 31 October 2018 confirming that ‘there was noticeable contact between yourself and a gentleman also attending the function’. I table that letter.

Tabled paper: Photograph of letter, dated 31 October 2018, from the General Manager of the Maryborough RSL, Mr Craig Lenihan, to Ms Carolyn Packer regarding an incident between Ms Packer and a gentleman at a function held at the RSL club [\[654\]](#).

I also want to say for the record that the candidate for the Labor Party in the Wide Bay area, Mr Jason Scanes, is involved in this as well. It has been alleged that Jason Scanes’s actions were to cover up the alleged assault by the employee of Bruce Saunders against a woman at the RSL. Jason

refused to release the CCTV footage. He was the CEO of the RSL at the time. He is now the Labor Party candidate for the Wide Bay area running against Llew O'Brien. He is the gentleman—if you could call him that—who refused to release the CCTV footage alleging that the staff member of the member for Maryborough assaulted Ms Carolyn Packer. Violence against women has no place in our society. We must stand up and say that this has no place in our country. Jason Scanes has chosen not to stand up against violence, choosing instead to cover up for a Labor mate.

In Jason's biography for the Labor Party website he claims that he wants to make a real difference for the community. Given his failure to do the right thing for Carolyn Packer, how can the people of Wide Bay trust him to do the right thing in office? I urge the people of Wide Bay to demand better than Jason Scanes on 18 May. Do not vote for someone who will not stand up for violence against women. Everyone in this House should say that we do not support thugs. We do not want thugs in this parliament, and I say this to the member for Maryborough, a self-confessed thug: you are not welcome in this parliament!

Honourable members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, members.

Mr Saunders interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Maryborough. Before I call the member for Townsville, I just make reference—

Mr Saunders interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Maryborough! I just make mention that before these documents are tabled we will ensure that they do comply with the standing orders. Further, if the member for Kawana has serious concerns, there are relevant authorities to direct those concerns to. I call the member for Townsville.

Mr BLEIJIE: I rise to a point of order. I rise on a matter of privilege suddenly arising. Madam Deputy Speaker, this is the people's house. The concerns I have raised are from a constituent—a Queenslander—who asked for those issues to be raised. This is the appropriate place, Madam Deputy Speaker.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: I was not disputing your contribution. I was simply suggesting that you can make those references. I call the member for Townsville.

Mr Saunders: Take it outside the House, you dog!

Honourable members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Maryborough, you are warned.

Mr BLEIJIE: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Maryborough, you are warned under the standing orders. Resume your seat.

Mr SAUNDERS: I could not hear you, Madam Deputy Speaker, because—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Maryborough, you are warned under the standing orders because of your threat to the member for Kawana.

Mr BLEIJIE: I rise to a point of order. I take—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Just resume your seat. I have just been advised by the clerk at the table that the advice given to you, member for Kawana, is correct. I call the member for Townsville.

Mr BLEIJIE: I rise to a point of order, Madam Deputy Speaker.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

Mr BLEIJIE: I find the comments that the member directed at me personally offensive and I would ask him to withdraw.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, do you withdraw?

Mr SAUNDERS: I withdraw.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Member for Maryborough, just a reminder that you are warned under the standing orders. I finally call the member for Townsville.

Mr Mickelberg: Not such a big man now.

Mr Saunders: Any time, brother!

Mr NICHOLLS: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

Mr NICHOLLS: I just heard the member for Maryborough call out across the chamber, 'Any time, brother.' It can only be construed that the member for Maryborough is making a threat to a member in direct contravention of your ruling.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Clayfield. Just resume your seat.

Mr SAUNDERS: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Sorry, member for Maryborough, but you have no point of order. Member for Maryborough, is that what you said across the chamber?

Mr SAUNDERS: Madam Deputy Speaker, I was threatened.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is that what you said?

Mr SAUNDERS: I was threatened. I was responding to a threat.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Maryborough—

Ms JONES: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Sorry, just resume your seat. Member for Maryborough, you are warned under the standing orders. I had not heard a threat coming from members opposite.

Government members: Buderim.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Sorry, I was not privileged to hear that threat. Member for Buderim—

Honourable members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Member for Buderim, you are warned under the standing orders.

Mr MICKELBERG: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, no. Resume your seat. I have just been advised that we will review the proceedings on the video evidence and I ask the member for Townsville to make his contribution.

Mr MICKELBERG: I rise to a point of order, Madam Deputy Speaker.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Buderim.

Mr MICKELBERG: On what basis am I warned?

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: I understood—


Ms Jones: The threat you made.

Mr MICKELBERG: Madam Deputy Speaker, it has been alleged that I made a threat to the member for Maryborough, which I did not. I am happy to repeat the comment that I said.

Mrs D'ATH: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Buderim, resume your seat. That is disrespecting the chair. I call the member for Townsville.

Townsville Electorate, Jobs

 **Mr STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (2.37 pm): Today I rise to speak about jobs in North Queensland. Some 800 jobs were lost in the city of Townsville in one day when Clive Palmer closed Queensland Nickel's doors in January 2016, creating utter chaos. An estimated 3,500 indirect jobs were also lost. I have met with several of these small business owners who did contract work or were part of the supply chain for those who supported the operations at Queensland Nickel. Many of those small businesses had to sack workers or even close their doors as a result of that work with Clive Palmer. All of those businesses are still owed money from that closure. Amounts between \$50,000 and \$28 million are owed supposedly to Townsville business owners, yet Clive Palmer still insists that he does not owe anybody anything in Townsville, such is the delusion of this man.

What we know is that a vote for Clive Palmer is a vote for the LNP and even more chaos. When Townsville was crippled by the closure of Queensland Nickel by Clive Palmer, it was the Palaszczuk government that immediately invested into Townsville. The Accelerated Works Program created hundreds of jobs. It kept some of those small businesses clinging to hope of recovery with investment into roads, bridges and rail infrastructure. Economic recovery is what is happening, but we still have a lot of work to do. The North Queensland Stadium, the new home for the North Queensland Cowboys, will be completed by the end of this year. There will be over 700 direct jobs on site, with another 3,000 indirect jobs from that project.

Eighteen months later, the Premier again backed one of the biggest infrastructure projects that will change the city for the future. The investment of \$225 million into the water pipeline from the Haughton Channel will see a sustainable water supply for the city. Prior to that monsoon event earlier this year, water was the No. 1 issue in my community. People were so concerned about the reliability of the water supply to the city that they would stop me in the street to talk to me about it or while I was out doorknocking.

I fought hard to win that funding for my community. With hundreds of local jobs being created through that project, it is the long-term industry and business outcomes that will lift Townsville to be the hub of north Australia. By providing an essential and secure water supply to the city well into the future, large investors are starting to line up. Currently, a lithium-ion battery company is building its case for a large battery manufacturing plant to the west of the city. This factory will employ over 1,000 full-time employees when the factory is at full production. Sun Metals, the zinc refinery in the south of the city, has also installed the largest solar farm in Australia. Late last year, the Premier was there for the official opening of that solar farm. The security of water supply has prompted the company to duplicate its facility at a cost of over \$300 million, which will employ around 850 local workers.

One of my favourite large infrastructure projects relates to the Port of Townsville—the largest commercial port in north Australia. The Palaszczuk government has committed \$750 million to widening the channel. The widening of the port channel is not sexy by any means, but it will increase the capacity of the port and allow larger ships into the Townsville port. Currently, those ships sail past the port and on to Brisbane. Their cargo is unloaded and either put on the back of trucks or onto trains and then sent to Townsville, thereby increasing the cost of living for the people in the north. This project will generate around 250 local jobs over the five years of the build.

I fought hard to stop the sale of the port by those opposite and to keep those jobs local. I fought to stop the sale of Ergon by those opposite to keep the lid on electricity prices for the people of Townsville. I fought to stop the sale of the Townsville to Mount Isa rail line by those opposite to ensure that vital freight and mineral concentrate can be sent from the north-west minerals province. I fought for the stadium. I fought for water. I fought for a local procurement policy, because I knew that it was the right thing to do. I knew that that would create jobs for the people of Townsville and I will continue to fight for those local jobs.

Halifax Bay, Huts; Animal Activists, Fines



Mr DAMESTO (Hinchinbrook—KAP) (2.41 pm): For generations, huts built around Halifax Bay and the Herbert River district have been an integral part of the culture of my local area. The locals of the Hinchinbrook electorate enjoyed the Halifax Bay and Herbert River areas before they were declared national parks. The people who use the huts in those areas look after their surroundings to the highest standard. Before those areas were declared national parks, hut users would hunt feral pigs, maintain the land and keep it free of weeds such as hymenachne and navua sedge.

Now, those hut owners have received notices from the Department of Environment and Science and the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy to show cause why they should not be asked to remove them. Over the last month I have met with representatives of the Department of Environment and Science and the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy. It disappoints me that in none of those meetings has there been any appetite by the state Labor government to find a solution so these hut owners can coexist with native title holders and the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service.

It is important to note that, at the time these huts were erected, the area was not declared a national park. Over the years, the boundaries of national parks have been realigned and have encroached on the area where these huts have been built. For generations, families have brought their children to enjoy staying at these huts, to fall in love with nature and learn how to look after the area. Unfortunately, this state Labor government is hell-bent on taking away the freedom of North Queenslanders to enjoy these outdoor areas.

I understand the reasoning to have national parks, but let me make it clear that this lock-it-up-and-leave-it mentality is only creating an environment in which weeds and feral animals can breed. For a long time locals have managed those problems in this area. I would like to see the Halifax Bay hut owners continue to do that in the years to come. I will continue to fight for the hut owners and do everything I can to save the Halifax Bay huts.

The pitiful trespassing fines that have been introduced will not stop vegan activists. A new fine that is aimed at deterring animal rights activists from running military style operations across Queensland will not stop them from trespassing on farms. I acknowledge the swift action of the state Labor government in introducing a \$652.75 fine, but I believe that it will not do anything to stop these activists causing havoc on our farms and at our meatworks across Queensland. It is naive to think that a \$652.75 fine will deter these activists. They are well funded and highly active on social media throughout the world. For them to raise this money to pay the fine would take only a matter of hours.

Recently, an anti-Adani protester was hit with a \$10,000 fine by a court after blocking the Abbot Point rail line. It was reported that the protestor was shocked by the heftiness of the punishment. I call on the government to get tougher in protecting our farmers by imposing a similar fine amount for anyone involved in these protests. The government should be doing all it can to protect the livelihoods of these hardworking farmers from the antics of these activists.

The state government has stated that it will amend the Biosecurity Regulation 2016 to include fines that will help protect these farmers. I commend the government for realising that trespassing on farms is a serious problem in terms of a biosecurity risk through having these people on their properties. Animal rights groups are attempting to destroy the livelihoods of these hardworking Queenslanders.

Last year, the parliament passed legislation to protect the rights of workers and patients at abortion clinics. No-one should feel threatened or intimidated at their workplaces. Why should there be a double standard for farmers? They deserve to have the same rights and protections. Queensland farmers expect better regulation and protection. Katter's Australian Party will continue to fight for that.

Resources Industry, Jobs



Mrs GILBERT (Mackay—ALP) (2.47 pm): I rise to speak about more opportunities for employment in Central Queensland. The Central Queensland region is the centre of Queensland's coalmining industry. The Queensland Palaszczuk government understands the value of the mining sector to the Queensland economy and the livelihoods of families associated with mining. Since first being elected, the Palaszczuk government has approved over \$20 billion in mining projects not only in relation to coal but also in relation to minerals such as bauxite, nickel, zinc, cobalt and gas.

My government supports the resources sector and the resources companies have confidence in Queensland. That over \$20 billion investment in projects is supporting over 8,000 jobs. In the gas sector alone, there is the Surat Gas Project, worth \$10 billion, with 1,000 jobs; the Charlie Fields gas project, worth \$1.7 billion, with 16,000 jobs; the Northern Gas Pipeline, worth \$800 million, with 431 jobs; the Goog-a-binge gas project, worth \$500 million, with 350 jobs; the Arcadia field gas project, worth \$400 million; the Atlas gas field project, worth \$140 million; the Roma East gas expansion, worth \$750 billion, with 400 jobs; and the Daandine-Tipton gas expansion, worth \$800 million.

As a government, we understand the value of jobs in the mining sector. That is why we have committed \$3.6 million to design and construct the state-of-the-art Mackay mining centre of excellence to boost jobs. We want to drive research and innovation in the mining sector. The centre will provide safe and accelerated training for those who want a career in the mining sector. The resource industry pays more than \$1 billion in wages and employs more than 8,600 full-time employees in the wider Mackay region. The Palaszczuk government is getting on with the job of cleaning up the unemployment mess that was left by the LNP in its short time in government.

Recently I had the great pleasure of standing with Todd Harrington from Whitehaven Coal, a company that is currently mining in New South Wales. We announced to the Central Queensland community a \$1 billion metallurgical coal mining project in Central Queensland's Bowen Basin coming a step closer to starting construction after being declared a coordinated project by Queensland's independent Coordinator-General.

The proposed Winchester South facility is 20 kilometres south of Townsville. It will create an estimated 950 jobs. Mr Harrington is intending to employ locals from our regional towns. This is great and exciting news for places like Moranbah, Dysart and Coppabella. It will provide more opportunities for mining service centres like Mackay, Rockhampton and Townsville. The project's construction will

support 500 jobs over two years, with 450 full-time jobs to be sustained once the mine is operational. This has the potential to be a huge win for our economy and will create security for so many locals and their families.

Since January 2015 the Palaszczuk government has created almost 185,000 jobs in Queensland. In January 2015 the unemployment rate in the Mackay region was hovering around nine per cent. Now it is around 3.7 per cent. Central Queensland's resource sector is strong and it is here to stay. This announcement shows that investors have confidence in our region. The direct jobs that will be created by the Winchester South project are significant and will have a positive effect on industry supply chains that will deliver a vital economic boost to our regional communities. It is the Palaszczuk government that legislated against 100 per cent fly-in fly-out for our workforce, giving our regional families the opportunity to have a choice about where they want to live and work.

Hospitals



Ms BATES (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (2.52 pm): Queenslanders deserve to have confidence that when they turn up to a public hospital in a medical emergency they will be seen on time. They deserve a world-class public health system that the Palaszczuk Labor government is not delivering. The latest scandal we have seen in health under Labor relates to the so-called rapid off-load ambulance transfer policy, or, as I have been told by the nurses at the coalface, OLI, which is the off-load immediately policy. As we saw at the Logan Hospital last month, it is straining relationships between nurses and paramedics and, according to the United Voice general secretary Gary Bullock, it is also putting patients' lives at risk. In fact, Labor's hand-picked director-general, Michael Walsh, had to front the media recently following a major blow-up at the Logan Hospital. In a media conference, he described the situation at Logan as clearly not a smooth process.

I am sure the health staff at Logan Hospital would say that is probably the understatement of the year. It was another situation where yet again the health minister was missing in action and hiding behind his bureaucrats. What we saw yesterday was another tale in the tragedy that is Labor's health crisis and yet again it was the minister failing to take any form of responsibility, with the CEO of the hospital and health service made the scapegoat. There was no accountability for the board and the chair of the board, Janine Walker, a former Labor candidate and well-known Labor luminary. There was no political accountability for the incompetent health minister, who yet again hides from scrutiny and does not front up for his own department. There was no leadership from the Premier, who promised better local health services at the last election but has spectacularly failed to deliver.

What Queenslanders need to know is that the minister was warned about issues and concerns with the new rapid off-load policy that was only supposed to be a temporary measure in place for the Commonwealth Games. A secret briefing note to the minister obtained by the LNP through RTI reveals that in June last year QEII emergency department nursing staff wrote to the minister regarding the placement of spare stretchers at the hospital emergency department with the following concerns raised: QEII nursing staff understood that the additional stretchers were to be utilised during the Commonwealth Games period only. However, they have remained in place; patients are being placed on these stretchers against doctors' clinical advice and left unattended which they believe to be a risk to patient safety; the nurses state they have not received any training in utilising the stretchers; and the QAS has gone against its own process with regard to coordination of patient off-loads within the ED.

The minister was warned there were concerns, yet the policy remained in place. According to Queensland Health Director-General Michael Walsh, the policy is operating at six hospital and health services across Queensland: Metro North, Metro South, Gold Coast, West Moreton, Townsville and Cairns. As a former ED nurse, I feel for the staff who are struggling under the weight of Labor's bad policies and the mismanagement that is notorious in Health. They are the front-line responders who do an amazing job each and every day. The impact on patient care is obviously a major concern. It should always be the priority, but as we have seen time and time again it seems to rate as a lower priority under Labor. The Premier needs to start putting patient care first and end Labor's dump-and-run ambulance transfer policy. It was supposed to be a temporary policy in place for the Commonwealth Games but has remained in place since. The minister needs to focus on fixing the problem, not fudging the figures.


In recent weeks we have seen a code yellow crisis across South-East Queensland hospitals, emergency departments overcrowded, ambulance ramping skyrocketing, disputes between health staff about patient transfers and still issues around Labor's digital hospital IT rollout, the integrated electronic

Medical Record. It is a system in crisis and it is time for something to be done about it. Scapegoating a CEO in one hospital and health service is a gutless act and will not fix systemic issues within the health system.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order! Member for Mudgeeraba, you have used unparliamentary language. I ask you to withdraw.

Ms BATES: I withdraw. The minister can blame the patients, blame the flu season, blame the feds, blame the LNP and anyone else to try to avoid taking responsibility for four years of failed Labor health policies, but Queenslanders are sick of the 'dog ate my homework' excuses from the minister. Queensland Health was a basket case under former premier Anna Bligh and now it is bedlam under the current Labor Premier, Annastacia Palaszczuk. Queenslanders deserve much better and it is about time patient care was a Labor priority.

Townsville

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (2.57 pm): I am glad to have Deputy Speaker Stewart in the chair because I am going to talk about Townsville. In North Queensland, particularly Townsville, we have a strong aversion to being told what to do. In Townsville we have endured the mining downturn, suffered under the LNP which cut jobs and sacked staff in health and education and we endured thousands being sacked after Clive Palmer walked away from QNI and the workers. Clive Palmer owes millions of dollars to workers and the federal government, the very government led by Scott Morrison who is now getting into bed with Clive Palmer—oh, the imagery! That arrangement alone should sound a dire warning to all in Townsville of how damaging that marriage will be for us in North Queensland. Townsville has also endured the worst flood in living history, displacing thousands, devastating over 500 businesses and damaging major infrastructure to the tune of \$1.5 billion. It takes a strong government to respond with all it can, and that is exactly what we are doing in Townsville.

Since being elected the Labor government has spent over \$1 billion on infrastructure such as the port expansion, the North Queensland Stadium, the water pipeline and road upgrades like Riverway Drive and the Townsville Ring Road. Hundreds of millions of dollars have gone into the Powering North Queensland Plan, restoring front-line jobs in health and education and building schools. We have and we are creating thousands of jobs in our city.

In Townsville we make up our own minds on issues before us. We will not be dictated to by the likes of News Ltd, Townsville Enterprise, Matt Canavan or any of those activists opposed to mining in the Galilee Basin, in particular by Adani. In Townsville locals can rest assured that the state government is supporting coalmining in the resources sector.

We have 52 million reasons to affirm that statement. Since 2015 when the Labor government came into office, we have indeed exported 52 million tonnes of coal out of the state. In the resources sector, 7,000 additional jobs have been created through mining approvals that support some 50,000 workers in the coal industry and there are thousands of more jobs coming. However, we have local media and now Townsville Enterprise Ltd, which have firmly nailed the LNP flag to their mast in regard to their latest comments in the paper, putting all members of parliament on notice and demanding immediate progress on the Galilee Basin; namely, Adani. This is all politically motivated in the middle of a federal election campaign. I ask that TEL, which consists of self-appointed nonelected individuals who purport to be apolitical, to draw a line in the sand and finally show their hand on where they stand in the political spectrum, because time will tell for TEL.

TEL is a member funded and Townsville City Council funded—which means Townsville ratepayers—organisation that paid the LNP thousands of dollars to attend an LNP state conference. They should not mislead people and say that they are apolitical. It is not the role of TEL to be engaged in or run political campaigns, trying to wedge state members of parliament to sign their politically motivated pledge. The chairman of TEL should stand down. He should go back to Townsville Airport. He stood in front of the media and said, 'We are being treated like fools.' Yes, we are, Mr Kevin Gill. We are being treated like fools at Townsville Airport, because under his watch we have lost more international flights than we have gained. Under his watch we have to drive to Brisbane or Cairns to get an international flight. It is costing us. TEL is no friend of this Queensland state government.

I will be working with the Regional Development Board of Australia, which is doing good work on the inland road plan. It is a good mob and a good organisation to work with. On the Galilee Basin there are bigger proponents than Adani, such as China Stone, China South, South Galilee and Alpha mines, all quietly progressing through the approval process without the white noise coming from the likes of Lucas Dow, Townsville Enterprise Ltd, News Ltd and the activists.

The fact is that on the Queensland government website under 'State Development', the Coordinator-General has listed the review of the Adani approval process in August 2019—not before the federal election in May. Attempting to push the state members of parliament into interfering with the approval process is dangerous territory indeed. I am sure we will be hearing more from the federal minister Melissa Price about the Adani underground water approval process signed days before the federal election, under pressure from Senator Matt Canavan and ignoring advice from CSIRO. This smacks of political desperation. We want jobs in North Queensland. We need jobs. We will stand by and wait for the approval process, without political interference.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): That brings to a conclusion matters of public interest.


CRIMINAL CODE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

CRIMINAL CODE AND OTHER LEGISLATION (MASON JETT LEE) AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading (Cognate Debate)

Resumed from p. 1241, on motion of Mrs D'Ath—

That the Criminal Code and Other Legislation Amendment Bill be now read a second time.

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (3.02 pm), continuing: In resuming the debate on the bills, once again I acknowledge Kerri-Ann and Shane Goodwin-Burke, their daughter and Kerri-Ann's parents. They are in the gallery and will be listening to the debate over the next couple of days.

The bill does not define the concept of 'reckless indifference' in line with the approach to other limbs of the definition of murder, some of which also do not require proof of intention to kill or do grievous bodily harm. The expanded definition is based on section 18 of the New South Wales Crimes Act 1900. While ultimately the application of the amendment will be a matter for the courts, it is therefore expected that New South Wales jurisprudence will be of some guidance. Further, insertion of any related definition may further complicate this issue and have serious unintended consequences.

Finally, the bill also amends section 324 of the Criminal Code to increase the maximum penalty for the offence of failure to supply necessities from three years imprisonment to seven years imprisonment to better reflect the seriousness of this offence and the community's condemnation of such offending. The increase in the maximum penalty is consistent with similar offences in the Criminal Code, such as cruelty to children under 16 under section 364 and endangering life of children by exposure under section 326, which both carry a maximum penalty of seven years imprisonment.

The bill also makes necessary consequential amendments flowing from the increased penalty including: listing the offence as a serious violent offence in schedule 1 of the PSA, which will allow the court to make a serious violent offence declaration in relation to a conviction for the offence if the offender is sentenced to five years imprisonment or more; and listing the offence in the meaning of protected witness under the Evidence Act, which will prevent a self-represented accused from cross-examining a victim in person.

Including the offence of failure to supply necessities in the serious violent offences schedule reflects the seriousness of this offence and is consistent with the current inclusion of other offences such as endangering life of children by exposure and cruelty to children under 16. Importantly, the sentencing court will retain discretion in relation to the setting of the head sentence and also whether to make a serious violent offence declaration in relation to a person convicted of an offence under section 324 of the Criminal Code.

I take this opportunity to briefly speak on the Criminal Code and Other Legislation (Mason Jett Lee) Amendment Bill 2019, which is the private member's bill introduced by the member for Toowoomba South on 13 February 2019. The private member's bill was also referred to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee for consideration and the committee's report, which was tabled on 16 April 2019 alongside the government's bill, recommended it not be passed.

The private member's bill proposes amendments to the Criminal Code to increase the mandatory minimum non-parole period for the murder of a child from 20 years to 25 years and to introduce a new offence of child homicide, which carries a mandatory penalty of life imprisonment with a mandatory

minimum non-parole period of 15 years. The government recognises and acknowledges that the opposition and the government, as well as, I am sure, the crossbench all want to see sentences for child homicide reflect the seriousness of the crime. For this reason, it is important that any changes to the law are considered and evidence based. The government believes its bill appropriately takes into account the findings of the QSAC report and is evidence based.

The government does not support the private member's bill and considers it should not be passed in conjunction with the government's bill. I will now outline why the government believes that this is the appropriate position to take.

The amendments in the private member's bill to increase the non-parole period for murder run contrary to the findings and recommendations made by QSAC in its report, which the Palaszczuk government has committed to implementing. This is acknowledged by the very fact that the opposition released their proposal prior to the final QSAC report being released; however, the LNP have not sought to amend their bill in recognition of the issues raised around manslaughter and mandatory sentencing.

In considering the appropriateness of sentences for child homicide, QSAC considered the mandatory minimum non-parole period that applies to murder. QSAC acknowledged the views of some that the same mandatory minimum non-parole period of 25 years should apply to the murder of children as currently applies to the murder of police officers in certain circumstances. QSAC also noted that, where a higher non-parole period is warranted, the court retains judicial discretion to set the non-parole period above the minimum non-parole period mandated by law. Taking that into account, QSAC made no recommendation to increase the current mandatory minimum non-parole periods that apply to the murder of a child.

Applying a mandatory minimum non-parole period of 25 years for the murder of a child is also inconsistent with most other Australian jurisdictions. In fact, we are the only jurisdiction that has life imprisonment with a mandatory minimum sentence of 20 years. The opposition relies on New South Wales in proposing this change. However, while New South Wales provides a standard non-parole period of 25 years for the murder of a child, a standard non-parole period is not binding and courts may choose to deviate from the standard—and they do—provided that they state their reasons for setting a longer or shorter non-parole period than the standard. Therefore, it is not a mandatory minimum period in New South Wales.

The private member's bill also proposes to introduce a new offence of child homicide, which carries a mandatory penalty of life imprisonment with a mandatory minimum non-parole period of 15 years. This offence is intended to apply in circumstances where an unlawful killing does not constitute murder and the person killed was a child under the age of 18 years, and the person that caused the person's death knew or ought reasonably to have known that the person killed was a child, and either the act or omission that caused the child's death involved violence, or was an offence of a sexual nature or was a breach of the duty in section 285 of the Criminal Code to provide necessities of life or the duty in section 286 of a person who has care of a child. The proposed child homicide offence in the private member's bill removes judicial discretion to impose a sentence that is just in the circumstances of the case for a range of offending currently captured by the offence of manslaughter.

QSAC found that child homicide offences occur in a diverse range of circumstances and are committed by a diverse group of offenders. QSAC stated that courts have long acknowledged that manslaughter attracts the widest range of possible sentences of all serious offences on the basis that it can involve cases where the offender did not intend to cause any physical harm, let alone cause death, to circumstances where the offender intentionally inflicted serious harm that would reasonably lead to the death of that child but is found guilty of manslaughter because of difficulties in proving intent which, if proved, would lift the offending conduct into the realms of murder. Applying a mandatory penalty of life imprisonment with a mandatory minimum non-parole period of 15 years to child homicide offences will result in injustices.

The Bar Association of Queensland's submission to the committee starkly highlights this potential for injustice by reference to the case of a mother who pleaded guilty to the manslaughter of her baby who died while she was alone in the bath. The mother in this case was born and educated in Pakistan and did not speak English or have paid employment, was imprisoned in her family's home and subject to repeated beatings. She was making telephone calls to arrange for the family to move to new accommodation at the time of her child's death. The mother in this case was sentenced to 18 months imprisonment with immediate release on parole. The Bar Association of Queensland states that if the private member's bill had been in force at the time of this offence, because the conduct involved a breach of section 286 of the Criminal Code 'Duty of person who has care of child', the mother would

have been convicted of child homicide and the only available sentence would have been life imprisonment with a mandatory minimum non-parole period of 15 years. Few would argue this would be an appropriate or just sentence given the circumstances of the case.

While the member for Toowoomba South has stated that the intention is that people who have the misfortune of being involved in an accidental death will not be caught by the new child homicide offence, the new offence will still have application to a person charged on the basis of criminal negligence to which the defence of accident does not apply.

In the case of criminal negligence related manslaughter cases, the extent of departure of the person's actions from reasonable community standards is a major consideration. QSAC noted that examples at the 'lower end of offence seriousness' are often those involving criminal negligence resulting in the death of a child where the death has resulted from a caregiver's temporary lapse of attention. Examples include causing the death by drowning of a child by leaving a young child unattended in a bath or leaving a young child in a car, resulting in death due to dehydration. The focus groups conducted by QSAC in its review show that people regard criminal negligence homicides as less serious and that such incidents can be tragic accidents, even where a child has died. However, the LNP is proposing that such cases will be subject to significant mandatory minimum penalties of 15 years imprisonment.

This starkly highlights how the private member's bill is a blunt instrument that is not supported by evidence. What the opposition do not tell the community is that the practical effect of the private member's bill will be to still treat those high-end culpability cases as manslaughter and to impose a mandatory 15-year imprisonment period on those low-end criminal negligence matters.

The one high-end case that will forever stick in my mind—there are so many tragic cases including Hemi's that QSAC's report talked about—was of the father who sexually and physically abused a toddler to the point of causing internal injuries to that child that led to that child's death. In anyone's mind, that is murder. They are morally culpable of that child's death. The opposition's child homicide offence would capture those people, whom we say should be convicted of murder, with a minimum life imprisonment with a mandatory minimum of 20 years but it also captures the father who accidentally left a child in the car, because that is a breach of duty of care with that section specifically listed under the new child homicide offence in the private member's bill.

We cannot bring those two together and say that all of those people should get 15 years. In my view, some of those cases—the most serious cases—should get life imprisonment with a minimum of 20 years for murder. Those other cases which are tragic accidents but which still are manslaughter as a result of someone's inattention and breach of duty should not get 15 years. There is the mother who was beaten, who was the subject of domestic violence, who did not get care for her daughter, who tried to but whose partner would not let her and by the time she finally got that child to hospital it was too late. She pleaded guilty to manslaughter. Under this new child homicide offence, she will get a minimum of 15 years. They are not the sort of people we want to capture. That is not what we are trying to achieve here. I absolutely understand what the opposition is trying to do, as this whole parliament is trying to do. We do want to increase the sentences for those cases where someone has deliberately taken action against a child to cause them such serious harm that their life has been lost, and that any reasonable person would see that their actions would lead to the death of that child. They should be charged with murder.

Imposing a mandatory minimum sentence of 15 years imprisonment will see an increase in the number of trials, which means witnesses having to endure the ordeal of giving evidence together with the possibility of a not guilty verdict. This is the reality—when you establish a mandatory minimum for a new offence of child homicide, people plead guilty on the basis of seeking to get a lenient sentence or a reduced sentence. If they know that pleading guilty or not they will get a minimum of 15 years, they will not plead guilty. This means more matters going to trial, more stress and trauma for witnesses but, most importantly, it also leads to an increase of a potential of no conviction at all for those individuals that we say should be charged under murder and at that low end should still remain in the manslaughter category where the courts will have that discretion.

We need to ensure that the sentencing process achieves justice. However, the community also expects that the sorts of injustices that would arise under the private member's bill do not occur. The government's reforms were developed after careful consideration of the in-depth work conducted by QSAC, are evidenced based and for these reasons strike the right balance of ensuring killers who show callous disregard for their victim's death are held to account for their actions and that justice is delivered

for their victims and those who are left devastated by their deaths—their families and friends. We need to protect our most defenceless, and the community should have confidence that the state has a criminal justice system that is robust in its protection of the most vulnerable members of our community.

The Palaszczuk government's reforms in its bill before the House and the implementation of QSAC's other non-legislative recommendations will strengthen the justice system with the aim to being more responsive to the needs and expectations of bereaved family members while holding perpetrators to account. In commending the government's Criminal Code and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 to the House, I also commend and once again thank all of those families, including Hemi's family, for their ongoing advocacy and campaigning to see the laws in this state changed. I hope that, although we can never ease their pain, what we do in this parliament this week will go some way to giving them comfort that we hope in the future others will face the consequences that they should when they take the life of an innocent child. I commend the bill to the House.



Mr JANETZKI (Toowoomba South—LNP) (3.17 pm): I move—

That the Criminal Code and Other Legislation (Mason Jett Lee) Amendment Bill be now read a second time.

I rise to make a contribution to the government's Criminal Code and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and to the Criminal Code and Other Legislation (Mason Jett Lee) Amendment Bill 2019, a private member's bill I introduced on 13 February 2019. I confirm that the opposition will be supporting the government's bill and urge the government in turn to support the Mason Jett Lee bill. This is this parliament's opportunity to do the right thing, to stand up and seize this moment to send a clear message—that child killers in Queensland must finally receive the tough punishments they truly deserve.

There is no doubt that the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council has done an outstanding job in completing its review, and QSAC is right to identify that there are many difficulties connected with child homicide cases. They include determining the cause of death, particularly in very young children; a lack of witnesses; and establishing clear intent. There is no doubt at all about that, but Labor's bill alone does not answer the question asked by families who have lost loved ones: why does this evil seem to be not punished sufficiently by the justice system?

According to QSAC's report into child homicide, offenders sentenced for adult manslaughter received significantly longer average sentences, at 8.5 years, than offenders sentenced for child manslaughter, at 6.8 years. These light punishments do not reflect the value of the child's life but have unfortunately formed strong precedent, making it almost impossible for courts to deviate from them and apply a punishment that fits the crime. I submit that the Mason Jett Lee bill will guarantee that. Today all parliamentarians in this House have the chance to rectify shortcomings in our current legal framework.

Firstly, let me turn to the government's bill. It proposes to expand the definition of murder to include reckless indifference as an element of murder, with the intent of capturing a wider range of offending. It inserts the new aggravating factor into the sentencing guidelines which will require courts to take into account the defencelessness and vulnerability of a child under 12 years. It increases the penalty for the offence of 'failure to supply necessities' from three years to five years imprisonment and changes it from a misdemeanour to a crime. It also proposes to include 'failure to supply necessities' as a serious violent offence.

The government bill amends section 302 of the Criminal Code to expand the definition of murder to include 'if death is caused by an act done, or omission made, with reckless indifference to human life'. This change adopts the New South Wales definition, which includes reckless indifference as a separate basis for establishing the offence of murder. I note that this proposal was not a recommendation of QSAC.

There are significant concerns that the proposed expanded definition of murder will not always result in a murder conviction even when the killing was violent or grossly negligent. This is because reckless indifference attracts a very high threshold which requires the offender to have the foresight of the probability, as opposed to the possibility, of death arising from that act or omission. It is important to note that the new definition of murder, to include recklessness as an element, will not be specific to child victims but will also include adult victims.

Legal and civil liberties bodies—none of whom, I ought to say, supported the opposition's Mason Jett Lee bill—say the expanded definition could actually work contrary to the government's aim, including in circumstances where the victim has a history of abuse towards the offender. I note that legal authorities, such as Angela Lynch at the Women's Legal Service of Queensland, have said that

the new definition of murder was dangerous when combined with mandatory sentencing in Queensland. The Bar Association of Queensland believes that the discretion of sentencing judges and the parole authorities in Queensland is already 'too severely shackled'. These comments beg the question of why the Labor government would seemingly ignore the QSAC recommendations and introduce a concept that was not even proposed by it.

In New South Wales there is ample evidence of case law that shows offenders who have violently killed children entering into plea bargains with the prosecution and pleading guilty to the lesser charge of manslaughter. This has been borne out by the evidence from the practical application of the law in New South Wales. Indeed, an analysis of New South Wales child homicide cases highlights this point.

In the 2004 case *R v Hoerler* the offender pleaded guilty to manslaughter after an original arraignment on a charge of murder. That case involved a brutal attack on a seven-month-old child. The offender took the child from a pram in the lounge room into the bedroom and struck the child repeatedly, with at least one punch to the head and one punch to the abdomen. At some stage the offender applied a clamp to the baby's toes, causing the child to vomit and die from asphyxiation.

In yet another case a man shook a child, choked the child and then stomped on the child's chest. The man had assaulted the child on previous occasions. The court called the attack on the child brutal and stated that there was 'no evidence of any expression of remorse' by the man. The offender pleaded guilty to manslaughter on the basis that he killed the child by an unlawful and dangerous act—which was accepted by the Crown.

In yet one further case the offender rammed his two-year-old son's head forcefully against a refrigerator door. The offender subsequently placed the boy on a bench where he poked him in the chest. The child fell from the bench to the floor, striking his head again. The offender pleaded guilty to the lesser charge. I could have raised similar issues in the ACT, where 'reckless indifference' comprises part of their legal framework also.

I stress again that all of these horrific cases resulted in a conviction of manslaughter despite the element of 'reckless indifference' being available. As I have said repeatedly publicly, the Crown will end up accepting guilty pleas on the lesser charge of manslaughter. 'Reckless indifference' is a tricky legal fix couched in the very best of intentions. It raises the community's hopes for stronger punishments but will not deliver them. On its own it will fail and it will fail Queensland children.

As I have already stated, this proposal was not recommended by QSAC. In fact, all key legal stakeholders—for entirely different reasons to those that I have raised—including the Queensland Law Society, the Bar Association of Queensland and the CCC, have opposed the expansion of murder to include reckless indifference.

The Queensland Law Society does not believe that there is any cogent evidence or data indicating that the current definition of murder is not appropriately achieving its objectives. These stakeholders also stated that recklessness and intention should not be treated as equivalent concepts.

The Bar Association of Queensland is of the view that a number of domestic scenarios will be caught by 'reckless indifference'—for example, parents being charged for leaving pool gates open or reversing over their own children in the driveway. They assert that other cases unrelated to child deaths, such as extreme dangerous driving causing death, gun accidents and various kinds of behaviour affected by alcohol or drugs, could potentially now attract a murder charge.

This is the element that is proposed by the Labor government's bill. We heard quite fulsomely the critique by the Attorney-General of some of the unintended consequences or alleged unintended consequences of the opposition's private member's bill, but these are some of the concerns raised by legal stakeholders about the government's bill—a government that proposes to introduce law on the basis of evidence over a span of time. I need to raise that as an anomaly in the Attorney-General's argument.

Another aspect of the government's bill is the new aggravating factor. QSAC recommended the introduction of a requirement that, in sentencing an offender for an offence resulting in the death of a child under 12 years, courts must treat the defencelessness of the victim and their vulnerability as an aggravating factor. The government's bill adopts this QSAC recommendation. In particular, the government bill seeks to amend section 9 of the Penalties and Sentences Act 1992 by inserting a new section 9B into the sentencing guidelines.

Currently, the sentencing guidelines are made up of dozens of aggravating factors and mitigating factors. This approach will apply to murder and manslaughter of a child under 12 years. This will not result in drastic change to the sentencing framework. The main reason for this is that, while the court must take into account the child's defencelessness and vulnerability to guide their sentence, this is one aggravating factor that must be weighed up against significant numbers of mitigating factors.

The court will first analyse the aggravating factors, with the aggravating factor of manslaughter of a child under 12 years being one of them. It appears that the scales of justice will tip towards the favour of the victim. However, after being satisfied of any aggravating factors, the court will then turn its mind to mitigating factors. Remorse, admission to guilt and the offender's upbringing are just some of the mitigating factors that might be considered. Sadly, all too often we will see the scales tip back in favour of the offender, leaving families of victims bewildered at the application of the law. In contrast, the opposition's private member's bill, the Mason Jett Lee bill, guarantees the families of victims that their child's killer will serve a 15-year sentence.

The government's bill also amends section 324 of the Criminal Code to change the offence 'failure to supply necessities' from a misdemeanour to a crime. The penalty will be increased from three years imprisonment to a maximum of seven years imprisonment. This again was not recommended by QSAC.

As a consequence of the amendment to the offence of failure to supply necessities, the bill amends section 21M—the meaning of a protected witness of the Evidence Act 1977—to include a reference to section 324. A further consequential amendment is made to schedule 1 of the Penalties and Sentences Act 1992 by inserting a new section 30A into the Criminal Code to include a reference to section 324 of the Criminal Code. This again was not recommended by QSAC. This now means that a sentencing court has the discretion to make a serious violent offence declaration when sentencing offenders to between five and 10 years of imprisonment. If a serious violent offence declaration is made, the offender must serve 80 per cent of their term of imprisonment before being eligible for parole.

Now I will turn to the opposition's Mason Jett Lee bill, which I have spoken repeatedly about right across Queensland. This is a bill introduced to remedy the inadequacy of punishments of child killers in Queensland because we knew that Labor does not have the stomach to do what is necessary to deliver justice for Queensland children. Let us never forget the tragedy of our precious young children being killed. I mention 22-month-old Mason Jett Lee: broken bones, ruptured organs, bruised from head to toe, covered in vomit, blood pooling around his neck and ears and a bruise that had swallowed his eye. This bill is named in his honour and memory, but tragically there are so many other precious children who have been killed and their lives cry out for justice. Examples include a three-year-old punched by her father and who died a slow, painful death; a four-year-old punched in the stomach by his mother and who later died of abdominal injuries; a one-month-old baby girl who suffered injuries including a fracture to the skull, ribs and legs; and 18-month-old Hemi Goodwin-Burke, beaten and killed by his drunken babysitter. I will return to Hemi and his family shortly.

The bill is straightforward. If someone is convicted of murdering a child under the age of 18, the court will be required to make an order that the person must not be released from imprisonment until the person has served a minimum of 25 years imprisonment. The bill introduces a new homicide offence in the Criminal Code which will sit between the murder and manslaughter provisions. It will apply to any child under 18 years. Under the new offence, a person who vigorously shakes, punches, kicks, stamps, throws, squeezes, suffocates, strangles or engages in any violent act that causes a child's death will be guilty of child homicide and face a mandatory minimum sentence of 15 years imprisonment.

A person who sexually assaults a child which causes the child's death will be caught under this offence. The abuse of a child for sexual gratification resulting in death is a crime of indescribable evil, which is why any person who rapes a child or commits any sexual offence to cause that child's death will serve a minimum of 15 years imprisonment. A person who has a duty to care for a child and who fails to provide the necessities of life for the child which causes his or her death will also be caught under this offence.

Mandatory sentencing, admittedly controversial, will raise the bar and bring Queensland in line with other Australian jurisdictions that impose sentences that accord with community expectations. We should not forget that at this moment right across Queensland we do have in effect mandatory sentencing with mandatory minimum non-parole periods for murder including the murder of a police officer and repeat sexual offenders. This is the basis of Queensland law as it stands today for these most serious of crimes.

Now it is this parliament's obligation to represent the interests of the community. Sometimes it is a delicate balance and sometimes it is a controversial balance, but it is a balance that must be found and the voices of the community must be heard. Sometimes the voices of the community must be heard above the legal technicalities, albeit by well-meaning and accomplished lawyers. Our job as parliamentarians is fundamentally different and requires us to balance all competing interests and voices.

On 25 March 2019 the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee held a public hearing consisting of a series of eminent and respected lawyers. Unfortunately, tucked away at the end of the public hearing was the lone voice of a family who have lost their everything—their precious boy Hemi, irreplaceable and unspeakably precious to them. The Goodwin and Burke families are here in the gallery again today, as also acknowledged by the Attorney-General. I want to recount some of their words. Shane Burke at the public hearing noted—

No sentence will bring back our child and others who have been killed. We are not seeking vengeance; we are seeking justice.

One of the ways in which the opposition's bill works is that it will offer protection for scenarios where an offender charged with murder subsequently enters into a plea bargain with the prosecution for the lesser offence of manslaughter. Mr Goodwin, Hemi Goodwin-Burke's grandfather, said—

This is not a business deal, which I see in the case of plea bargains because they are private. You do not know what went on; it is between the defence and the prosecution ... Because it never went to court the horrible things that person did did not come to light.

Incidentally, that is one of the QSAC's recommendations that needs to be urgently addressed by the government—better communication with families. I understand from the Attorney-General's contribution that that is well underway. That is a common complaint from families no matter where I travel across Queensland speaking with families. Mr Burke also noted that given the secretive nature of plea bargaining and the manslaughter charge the public believe that it must have been an accident. In reference to this mistaken belief he said—

He did not put 78 bruises on him. He did not cave his skull in like it was a rockmelon. That is what he did, but no-one knew that. They thought it was a one hit thing.

The opposition's bill will mean that an offender has nowhere to hide. They will serve 15 years imprisonment for the manslaughter of a child. That is a guarantee.

I turn now to defences in the bill that will operate as a partial defence in very limited circumstances. The defences of killing on provocation, diminished responsibility and killing for preservation in an abusive domestic relationship will be available for offenders in applicable circumstances. This means that a woman suffering from postnatal depression will have the benefit of relying on such a defence. The defence of killing on provocation is available to a person charged with child homicide. It is not this bill's intent to charge a 17-year-old for the unlawful killing of a 16-year-old. The defence of killing for preservation in an abusive domestic relationship is available to a person charged with homicide. The last thing the bill seeks to do is to make it any more difficult or complex for victims of domestic assault to satisfy self-defence.

All defences will act as a partial defence so that the offender will be convicted of the lesser offence of manslaughter instead of child homicide. As Mr Goodwin observed in the operation of the bill—

That is what this law is meant to capture—not the person who does that stupid act but repeated attacks on the vulnerable child. This is what it is meant to capture. It is not meant to capture the wife who killed her abusive husband. It is not meant to capture any of that.


Again, it is important to make it abundantly clear: people who have the tragic misfortune of being involved in an accidental death will not be caught by the new child homicide offence. Section 23 of the Criminal Code provides that a person is not criminally responsible for an event that occurs by accident. This provision is relied upon to absolve a person from criminal responsibility where an act or omission has occurred independently of the exercise of the person's will or an event that the person does not intend or foresee as a possible consequence. The last thing the opposition wishes to see are parents being charged for leaving pool gates open or reversing over their own children in the driveway. These are scenarios suggested by some of the stakeholders in submissions and they will simply not occur in practice. Again, as Mr Burke has said—

I have read the bill and I believe it is not talking about the accidents or the forgetful mum; it is talking about violence.

Once again, I confirm that the opposition, despite its reservations, will be supporting the government's bill. It is a bill that fails to acknowledge the magnitude of the problem at hand and the tough decisions that need to be made to overcome them, but it is a start. On its own it is just that. Perhaps the government ought to listen more to Shane Burke, who said—

I think considering both of these bills we could unite and make some really robust legislation that will help protect all these children.

I believe that is what we must do. The Mason Jett Lee proposals are tough, but they are exactly what we need to balance the scales of justice in Queensland to give proper value to the lives of our children who have been lost. The community demands meaningful action and our bill will deliver it. For the precious children whose lives have not been properly valued by our justice system, it is painfully and tragically long overdue.

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (3.39 pm): On 13 February 2019, the Criminal Code and Other Legislation (Mason Jett Lee) Amendment Bill 2019 was introduced into the Legislative Assembly by Mr David Janetzki MP, shadow Attorney-General and shadow minister for justice, and referred to the committee. The committee reported to the Legislative Assembly, recommending that the bill be not passed.

On 19 February 2019, the committee invited written submissions on both the bill and the Criminal Code and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019, a bill introduced by the Hon. Yvette D'Ath, Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, on 12 February 2019. The committee reported separately in respect of that bill. Fourteen submissions were received by the committee in respect of the bills. The committee received written advice from Mr Janetzki dated 21 March 2019 in response to matters raised in submissions. The committee received a public briefing about the bill from Mr Janetzki on 25 February 2019.

On 25 March 2019, the committee held a public hearing on the bill and the government bill. The public hearing was held in relation to both the bill and the government bill. The submissions, correspondence from Mr Janetzki and transcripts of the briefing and hearing are available on the committee's web page. One submitter, PACT, raised concerns about the title of the bill, saying—

... PACT believes that the Queensland Government should show caution including the name of a specific person ie. Mason Jett Lee in the Legislation. This could potentially be perceived as narrowing the intended purpose. It also maintains an ongoing link to a single victim which may impact negatively on a family's ability to fully recover and could lead to other victim families feeling disregarded. Therefore, PACT is of the view that the legislation needs to be easily recognisable and broad enough to cover a range of different child-related offences.

The Queensland Law Society considered that informing the Queensland community was the most appropriate method of managing the perception that sentences for filicide and child homicide are inadequate. They said—

The research suggests that if the community had access to comprehensive evidence on criminal justice sentencing and trends and were fully and properly informed, they would be generally satisfied with sentencing outcomes. As such, the Society supports increased efforts to ensure public awareness and understanding of sentencing decision processes.

I will now deal with the government bill for the balance of my contribution to the House to support the passing of the Criminal Code and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. On 12 February 2019, the Criminal Code and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 was introduced into the Legislative Assembly. The committee reported on that bill on 16 April. The committee received written advice from the Department of Justice and Attorney-General in response to matters raised in submissions. The department briefed the committee on the bill at a public briefing on 25 February 2019. The department also provided the committee with a written briefing note. On 25 March 2019, the committee held a public hearing on the bill and the private member's bill. The submissions, correspondence from the department and transcripts of the briefing and hearing are available on the committee's web page.

On 25 October 2017, the Attorney-General issued terms of reference to the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council to review the adequacy of penalties imposed on sentences for criminal offences arising from the death of a child in response to ongoing community concern about whether sentences for criminal offences arising from the death of a child are meeting expectations. The Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council released its report on 21 November 2018. The government bill proposes to implement recommendation 1 of QSAC's report, *Sentencing for criminal offences arising from the death of a child: final report*. The bill will amend the Penalties and Sentences Act 1992 to provide that, in sentencing an adult offender convicted of the manslaughter of a child under 12 years, the court must treat the child's defencelessness and vulnerability, having regard to the child's age, as an aggravating factor.

The bill will also amend the Criminal Code to expand the definition of murder to include reckless indifference to human life and increase the maximum penalty for failure to supply necessities from three years imprisonment to seven years imprisonment and reclassify the offence as a crime. The explanatory notes advise that 'wide-ranging and extensive' consultation was undertaken by the QSAC during its inquiry into the penalties imposed on sentences for criminal offences arising from the death of a child. The explanatory notes further provide that a consultation draft of the bill was provided to key stakeholders and that their feedback was taken into account in finalising the bill.

The key stakeholders consulted included the Crime and Corruption Commission, the Director of Public Prosecutions, the Bar Association of Queensland, the Queensland Law Society, Legal Aid Queensland, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service (Queensland) Ltd, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Legal Services NQ, Sisters Inside, Protect All Children Today, the Queensland Homicide Victims' Support Group, the Queensland Council for Civil Liberties, Women's Legal Service Queensland, Caxton Legal Centre, Community Legal Centres Queensland, the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions, Bravehearts and Prisoners' Legal Service.

The bill proposes to implement recommendation 1 of the QSAC report by inserting a new subsection which states—

In determining the appropriate sentence for an offender convicted of the manslaughter of a child under 12 years, the court must treat the child's defencelessness and vulnerability, having regard to the child's age, as an aggravating factor.

Based on the evidence that the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council received during its inquiry into child homicide, the QSAC reached the view that—

Penalties imposed on sentence for manslaughter offences committed against children under 12 years—in particular, those offences involving the direct use of violence—do not adequately reflect the unique and significant vulnerabilities of child victims.

After noting that the range of sentences imposed for manslaughter against young children has remained stable since at least the 1990s, and with the majority of sentences between seven and nine years imprisonment, the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council QSAC commented—

Given improved understanding of the significant long-term impacts of child abuse and neglect, and changes in community attitudes about the use of physical punishment against children, higher sentences for these offences, particularly those involving the direct use of violence, in the Council's view are warranted.

The Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council considered various means of supporting courts to better reflect children's vulnerability in sentencing before determining that creating a new aggravating factor in section 9 of the Penalties and Sentences Act was the best means of achieving the goal. The Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council report identified the benefits of the introduction of a new aggravating factor. They said—

Importantly, this approach will retain sentencing flexibility by taking into account the diverse circumstances in which these offences occur while emphasising the factors that make these offences more serious.

The reform recommended has the advantage of applying not just to the setting of the non-parole period, but also to the setting of the head sentence. The Council considers this is a distinct advantage of this approach over other potential changes contemplated to the operation of the SVO scheme.

...

The proposed aggravating factor will serve two primary purposes. First, it will support courts' treatment of these offences as more serious and therefore deserving of more severe punishment. Secondly, it will meet the sentencing purpose of deterrence and denunciation—sending a clear message to the community that violence against children of any kind is wrong and will not be tolerated.

The department stated—

That increases the penalty that they impose for that offender, having regard to all of the circumstances up to the maximum penalty that applies to that offence. In the case of manslaughter that is a maximum penalty of life imprisonment.

I recommend that the Criminal Code and Other Legislation (Mason Jett Lee) Amendment Bill 2019 not be passed and that the Criminal Code and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019, which is the government bill, be passed.



Mr LISTER (Southern Downs—LNP) (3.49 pm): I rise to speak on the cognate debate of the Criminal Code and Other Legislation (Mason Jett Lee) Amendment Bill 2019 and the Criminal Code and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019. I will confine most of my speech to the aspects of the private member's bill introduced by the member for Toowoomba South. We do support both bills, but it is most important in my view and the view of those on this side of the House that they both be passed.

The objectives of the private member's bill are to enforce stronger penalties for unlawful homicide offences involving the death of a child and to ensure sentencing for homicide offences involving children reflects the broader community expectations. These objectives will be achieved by introducing a mandatory minimum non-parole period of 25 years imprisonment for the murder of a child under 18 years of age and by introducing a new offence of child homicide, which will include a mandatory minimum non-parole period of 15 years.

The bill strengthens the punishment imposed for the murder of a child under the age of 18 years by requiring the court sentencing the person to make an order that the person must not be released from imprisonment until the person has served a minimum of 25 years or more specified years of imprisonment. In relation to the child homicide offence, the bill creates the new offence intended to apply to a person who unlawfully kills a child in circumstances where the person killed was a child at the time the act or omission that caused the death was done or made, and the act or omission that caused the person's death involved violence or was an offence of a sexual nature or a breach of duty stated in sections 285 and 286 of the Criminal Code.

I am the deputy chair of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee. For both of these bills we were fortunate to have a great number of submissions and people and bodies who came to appear before us, and I thank them. While I do so, I acknowledge my fellow committee members and the staff of the committee for allowing that process to take place.

The killing of a child is a shameful crime and it is not one that is tolerated by Australians. It is particularly the case where the death of a child involves neglect of that child. Unfortunately, we see from court data and from the Australian Sentencing Advisory Council's report that offenders convicted of manslaughter of children are often sentenced to less time in prison than offenders convicted for the manslaughter of an adult. I think that says that we need stronger penalties. This is why we propose to increase the sentence for those who murder a child from 20 to 25 years to bring Queensland law in line with other states and territories and to create a new child homicide offence.

The bill also provides defences for diminished responsibility, killing on provocation and killing for preservation in an abusive domestic relationship, and I think that is very important. These defences, such as the defence of diminished responsibility, will offer protection to women who are of unsound mind by reasons of not having fully recovered from childbirth. This will ensure judicial discretion in sentencing is maintained in cases where the person is of unsound mind.

The child homicide offence will not apply to accidental deaths such as where a child drowns in a dam or is accidentally run over. I think that is an important point to make because I did hear about the place that this bill would effectively make someone who accidentally kills their child or allows it to happen in tragic and largely blameless circumstances able to be convicted of manslaughter. That is not the intent or the case with this bill.

I believe that mandatory sentencing is necessary because the courts are bound to low sentences and Queensland does not have decades to wait for precedents to change. The LNP's bill can guarantee that a person convicted of a child murder will spend a minimum of 25 years in prison. The LNP's bill can guarantee that a person convicted of child manslaughter will spend a minimum of 15 years in prison. This is double the average that offenders are currently getting.

I have heard others speak—and correctly so to some extent—about the importance of judicial discretion and of having evidence brought to the fore in sentencing people. I agree with that, but I think we ought to temper that with some of the evidence of lived experience and real life. One of the submitters to the committee on this bill was Stacey Brakenridge. She made the point—

What exactly is a child's life worth? What will we take from this report to ensure that innocent young lives matter? Enough talking, we need change or more children are going to die and more offenders will be free to live out their lives unlike their victims. According to Queensland Government statistics—Mason's average life expectancy was 80.1 years. You do the maths on the life he has been robbed off, and all the experiences in between.


I think that was a very profound contribution. I also refer to the case of Matthew James Ireland, who was the carer who killed Hemi Burke. He was sentenced to 8½ years imprisonment. However, with time served he became eligible for parole just recently. I want to acknowledge the presence in the gallery of Hemi's parents, Shane and Kerri-Ann; his grandparents, Kris and Richard; and his sister, 'Tee', who was a lovely, polite young lady who said hello to me this morning in the corridor. I would like to thank them for having the courage to come before the committee and give their story. I would like to read into the record what Richard had said before the committee, which I found quite moving. He said—

... we are just normal people. We found that the court system is cold and dispassionate, non-responsive to the family and their victims, and the sentences that are handed out are inadequate. It is not because the legal system is flawed; the judges and the lawyers are working with the system we have. We felt there was a need to add an extra limb, as the government has now added

reckless indifference. In those cases where people used to be charged with manslaughter, they will now be ... charged with murder. It has been pointed out that this may capture the parent who ran over the kid or the person who left the kids on the forklift. That is not the intent. What the police and the DPP will do is look at the facts and circumstances of the case and charge them accordingly. We feel they are not going to go to court and run with the case of, 'I ran over the kid,' because it will just get thrown out on appeal. They are not going to waste the court's time and money.

I absolutely agree with what Richard Goodwin said there because I believe in the effectiveness of the discretion whether or not to prosecute, which is a fundamental part of our criminal system. I believe that our prosecutors and the police will not proceed with prosecutions where the case does not meet community expectations.

Regarding reckless indifference, as the member for Toowoomba South has said, we have seen in New South Wales where they have reckless indifference to human life perpetrators plea bargain down to manslaughter, and that offends ordinary Queenslanders. It offends particularly the families of the victims. I will spare the House the details of some of the circumstances in which these defenceless children have died. They are quite disgraceful and shocking. It is the community's expectation that we will make sure that the sentences handed down to those who kill children fit the crime. As a representative of the people—I represent the people of Southern Downs—I can say that it is the very strong expectation of my constituents that we do just that. They want to see that the life of a child—and most of us are parents and understand how sacrosanct that is—is recognised with a proportional sentencing outcome for those convicted of murder. I think that Mr Janetzki's, the member for Toowoomba South, private member's bill goes some way to achieve that. I say that the government's bill is a step in the right direction but it does not go far enough, so I urge the House to pass both bills.

 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (3.59 pm): I stand here to contribute to this debate, to speak to the amendment bills before the House and to acknowledge that this is no easy thing. We are here to discuss the most tragic and distressing of events that can occur in our society: the death of a child. As I said, there can be no easy conversation. Any time a child dies unexpectedly there are rightfully questions that must be asked and circumstances which must be examined. The place of a child within our society demands it. They are fragile beings, innocent of the wider world and the embodiment of the hope that we have for the future of all of us. They deserve not only our love, time and patience but also our protection to allow them to grow.

The circumstances surrounding the death of a child at the hands of someone who should have been the provider of that love, time or patience—or at the very least a role in protecting a child from danger—causes us to examine all of the factors which may have contributed to such a tragic outcome. It is but one component of the broader complex and interrelated factors that we look at the penalties and sentences surrounding the killing of a child, because in having this debate we may be seen to be throwing our hands up, admitting that children are going to be killed and admitting defeat. I know that I would much rather spend my time here in this House looking at measures and the funding of programs which would prevent situations which lead to the death of a child, but here we are.

I understand that as politicians we spend a not inconsiderable amount of time being reactionary to what happens in the wider community. There is no stronger lightning rod than the community's collective response to the death of a child, particularly in violent circumstances. I have certainly heard, and continue to hear, commentary on the adequacy of penalties and sentences for these offences, so let us look at the legal framework surrounding offences—specifically penalties and sentences—arising from the death of a child, which is what I will focus on today.

The work has been done thanks to the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council, which released the *Sentencing for criminal offences arising from the death of a child: final report* in October last year. Their extensive research and consultation over a 12-month period produced the final report, and I will unashamedly refer to it throughout my contribution because it is extensive and contains all and any evidence required to contribute to an evidence based discussion.

The report outlines eight recommendations, and I will refer to them shortly, particularly with respect to the government amendment bill. One of the terms of reference of the council's investigation was to determine whether the penalties currently imposed on sentence for criminal offences arising from the death of a child adequately reflect the particular vulnerability of child victims. Reading through the report, one can see the amount of qualitative and quantitative data that was derived and the rigour that went into this task. This was not a skimming of letters to the editor or sifting through an overflowing inbox.

I do support the council's finding that 'sentencing for manslaughter cases involving direct use of violence against a young child are not viewed by the community as adequate.' Further, the council is also of the view that sentencing for manslaughter offences committed against a young child does not

adequately reflect the unique vulnerability of child victims. This leads to recommendation 1: the introduction of a new aggravating factor for child homicide offences. It is important to note that recommendation 1 is the only legislative amendment recommendation of the council. It does not recommend new offences, and it certainly does not recommend any regime around mandatory sentences. This is the substance of clause 9 of the government's amendment bill. It amends section 9 of the Penalties and Sentences Act by including subparagraph 9B, which states—

... in determining the appropriate sentence for an offender convicted of the manslaughter of a child under 12 years, the court must treat the child's defencelessness and vulnerability having regard to the child's age, as an aggravating factor.

What is important to note is that this amendment provides a direction for a judge to make specific considerations for vulnerable victims in sentencing but it does not prescribe. It does not tie a sentencing judge's hands. This is important.

I know it is hard to press this case in the public domain because there is a public perception that judges are out of touch with community expectations on sentencing, but even here there is more evidence that the Sentencing Advisory Council can provide members. I implore all members to have a read to assist in dealing with the regular correspondence that accompanies these issues. Let us break it down. The report states that—

... when responding to a general opinion poll the overwhelming majority of people consider sentences are too lenient and that judges are out of touch ...

There you go; that is a headline we see on high rotation. There is some data I would like to bring to this discussion, and it is in the detail. Firstly, public awareness of courts and sentencing is limited. Secondly, research reveals that as people become more informed they report less punitive views on crime, sentencing and offenders. And when the public is provided more information on a given case, judicial sentences and public sentences are very similar. The report continues—

The second Australian jury study found that when informed of the situational and contextual factors of individual cases the 'views of judges and jurors are much more closely aligned than mass public opinion surveys would suggest'.

This is why a large number of the remainder of the sentencing council's report recommendations surround providing the victims, their representatives, the public and media with more information around sentencing in a timely manner.

In the time I have remaining I would like to briefly touch on the opposition amendment bill. It does concern me when someone drafting legislation chooses to use and evoke the death of a child in naming a piece of legislation. This is not just my concern, and I will articulate the submission from the Protect All Children Today organisation. They stated that we should show caution to include the name of a specific person. As stated in their submission—

This could potentially be perceived as narrowing the intended purpose ... legislation needs to be easily recognisable and broad enough to cover a range of different child-related offences.

The submission also states—

It also maintains an ongoing link to a single victim which may impact negatively on a family's ability to fully recover ...

My primary concern with this bill is any approach which seeks to introduce mandatory sentencing. This concern was raised in almost all of the submissions received by the committee. I asked the shadow Attorney-General—who admitted that he did not bother to wait for the Sentencing Advisory Council's final report because he had a 'wide range of information already available to us'—to provide the evidence that supported the role of mandatory sentencing in sentencing. The shadow Attorney-General's amendment bill states—

The intent of the Bill is to recognise and protect vulnerable and defenceless children ...

That is a worthy intent, but when asked to provide the evidence that mandatory sentencing—a key point of difference in the opposition bill—protects vulnerable and defenceless children, he could not. The shadow Attorney-General spoke of community concerns and demands and the need to respond to those demands. He spoke of non-parole periods for murder and repeat sexual offences. He also spoke of the need for deterrence and sending a strong message.

I do have strong reservations about this approach. I feel that, whilst sending messages of deterrence is a component of setting appropriate penalties and sentences for offences, it should not be a determining one. Mandatory sentencing takes away judicial discretion. In 20-odd years of policing I have had many opportunities to scratch my head over decisions made by judicial officers, and I have

even taken umbrage in certain instances, but I go back to my original point. The lack of understanding over the factors that judges and magistrates take into consideration and apply during sentencing is at the root of this lack of understanding. It is important as lawmakers to recognise the expertise in our judiciary and the experience they have in interpreting and applying the Penalties and Sentences Act.

Mandatory sentences also increase the number of contested trials. An offender facing a mandatory sentence has nothing to lose. They will throw the dice, string out a court matter and drag surviving family members through months and months of re-traumatisation.

In examining and reporting on both of these bills the committee heard not only from legal stakeholders but also from community organisations and advocates. We also heard from families of victims. This was no easy topic to examine. I would like to thank my fellow committee members and all those who attended the public hearing. I would specifically like to acknowledge the family of Hemi Goodwin-Burke, who attended and gave evidence before the committee—heartbreakingly so—on the fourth anniversary of the events that led to his death. It was amazing to see your strength and resilience, and I thank you for your ongoing advocacy in this space.



Mr McDONALD (Lockyer—LNP) (4.09 pm): Any individual who willingly or through negligence and without regard for the consequences takes the life of another commits a most heinous and immoral act. Taking another person's life is arguably the most horrible crime an individual can commit. In the eyes of most, the only thing worse than taking the life of another is taking the life of a child. To take away the future of one of society's most vulnerable, either through a desire to do so or through a reckless indifference to that child's life, is simply a disgusting and unforgivable offence.

Society will not accept the company of anyone who takes the life of a child. We as our state's lawmakers must make it a priority to ensure that our laws reflect this expectation. That is why I stand today to speak on and offer my support for the Criminal Code and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and the Criminal Code and Other Legislation (Mason Jett Lee) Amendment Bill, a bill which intends to strengthen Queensland's child homicide laws to meet the community's expectations and show not only Queenslanders but all Australians that we will not give child killers any leniency.

Before continuing, I would like to thank the committee: the members for Toohey, Mansfield, Mirani and Macalister and especially the member for Southern Downs, who joined me in completing a statement of reservation outlining the deficiencies of the government's bill and recommending that the LNP shadow Attorney-General's Mason Jett Lee bill should also be passed. I thank our secretariat for their diligence and consideration of the witness contributions and submissions. I thank the families who shared their tragic stories and grief. I am terribly sorry for your losses. To the Goodwin and Burke families of Hemi: thank you for your courage. I hope that politics is put aside in consideration of this bill and that the community's expectation is met.

I will now speak about each of the bills, their methods and some reasons this government should support the LNP's bill. The objectives of these bills are straightforward. The government's bill is to strengthen sentencing practices around child homicide, while the LNP shadow Attorney-General's private member's bill sets out to enforce stronger penalties for unlawful homicide offences involving the death of a child and, put simply, to ensure sentencing for homicide offences involving children reflects broader community expectations.

Firstly, the government's bill seeks to strengthen sentencing practices around child homicide by expanding the definition of murder in section 302 of the Criminal Code to include reckless indifference to human life. Secondly, the bill will also insert a new aggravating factor into sentencing principles requiring a court tasked with sentencing an adult convicted of manslaughter of a child under 12 to take into account the defencelessness and vulnerability of the child regarding their age. Finally, the government's bill will increase the maximum penalty for a failure to supply necessities from three to seven years imprisonment and reclassify this offence as a crime.

Whilst generally supported by personal stakeholders who completed submissions to this bill, these objectives did raise some concerns with and were questioned by a number of legal professional bodies. The Bar Association of Queensland, the Queensland Law Society and the Crime and Corruption Commission were all opposed to widening the definition of murder to include reckless indifference. Furthermore, the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council, from whom the basis of this bill comes recommended, outlined clearly that this expansion was not a recommendation made by it. Indeed, none of the three objectives set out by the government's bill are recommendations by QSAC.

While being supportive of any bill that will send the message that crimes against children will not be tolerated in Queensland, the LNP holds some concern over this bill's methods of achieving its objectives. As has been seen in New South Wales, where such a definition exists, an expansion of the

definition of murder to include reckless indifference is no sure way to guarantee that in all cases where a child is killed through violence or gross negligence a murder conviction will result. This is due to the incredibly high threshold 'reckless indifference' places on the Crown. In order to uphold a murder charge in a circumstance of reckless indifference, the Crown must show that the defendant foresaw their actions resulting in the probable, as opposed to possible, death of their victim.

This will be a lawyers picnic in determining cases around this definition. This is an unrealistic expectation to place on the Crown and it leaves the door open for child killers to expect plea bargains for the lesser charge of manslaughter. Those opposite may question this claim, but evidence from other jurisdictions supports it. Indeed, in New South Wales the story has played out on a number of occasions. Of note is a case in which an offender removed a child from a pram and carried the child to an adjacent room where they proceeded to strike the child repeatedly, including punches to the head and abdomen. These strikes eventually caused the child to vomit and die of asphyxiation. Despite these vile actions, which showed a clear disregard for the life of another and were totally contradictory to any definition of appropriate behaviour, the offender was able to plead guilty to manslaughter. While the LNP will support this expansion in the definition of murder, it is far from perfect and more is required to keep children safe.

Not only could this bill not guarantee that vile offenders face the charges the community expects; its aggravating factor principle also provides no guarantee of lengthier sentences for child killers. Courts already have access to a multitude of other aggravating factors to take into account when sentencing. Thus far, none of these factors has proved sufficient to cause a meaningful increase in sentencing or sentence lengths to improve trust in the courts or meet community expectations. We are left with very little proof that this change will alter that trend. Indeed, this change simply adds another factor to an already cluttered and difficult to navigate list of aggravating factors matched to an almost endless list of mitigating factors against which it must be weighed.

This is another example of this bill's half-hearted attempts to create meaningful and desperately needed change. Luckily for those opposite and for our community, the LNP has thrown them a lifeline by proposing the introduction of a mandatory minimum non-parole period of 25 years imprisonment for the murder of a child under 18 and the introduction of a new offence of child homicide, which will include a mandatory minimum non-parole period of 15 years imprisonment. These are tough laws, but we make no apology as they meet the community's expectations.

While the government's bill is a start, it fails to appropriately meet the community's expectations and will fail to properly punish those who prey on society's most vulnerable if left as they are. If this legislation is passed alongside the LNP private member's bill, however, its shortcomings can be bridged. Only the LNP's bill will ensure appropriate penalties are applied to those who take the life of a child. Even in cases where a murder conviction fails to be upheld under reckless indifference, the LNP's proposed child homicide offence will ensure that perpetrators of these disgusting crimes face nothing less than the penalties they truly deserve.

We on this side of the House stand united in supporting these bills. The LNP wants to see appropriate justice for the victims of the heartless offenders who prey on defenceless children. No child or family of that child should have to suffer and go through this pain. Those who commit the crime should be forced to face the consequences. The only way to ensure this is by passing both the government's bill and the LNP's bill. I say to those opposite: the ball is in your court. You have our support for your bill. Do the right thing: support the LNP's bill and show Queenslanders that you are willing to put politics aside, put differences behind us and do the right thing to punish these heinous offenders.



Ms McMILLAN (Mansfield—ALP) (4.18 pm): Today I rise to speak to the Criminal Code and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019, the government bill. Under this legislation, killers whose callous disregard for their victims leads to their death will, if convicted, face life in jail. These are the people who are escaping murder convictions because intent is inherently difficult to prove in these types of cases. This bill will expand the definition of murder to include the unlawful killing of another if the death is caused by an act or omission with reckless indifference to human life.


The Palaszczuk government wants justice for the victims and justice for those left behind, their families and their friends. We want to see strong sentences imposed when people take the lives of our most vulnerable—our children, our elderly and the disabled. The community must have confidence that Queensland has a criminal justice system that is robust in its protection of the most vulnerable members of our community. Some of the most vulnerable members of our community are of course our children. All too often I have supported child victims of abuse and their families in my role as a teacher and school

leader. I have witnessed firsthand the impact of physical and sexual abuse on young people and the form of abuse or neglect, whether this be neglect through hunger, deprivation of love, safety or exposing young people to harm. Nothing is harder than leading a school community through a tragedy that involves a child. Every child has the right to be safe and to live in a home free from violence. However, the bill is not limited to child victims. Rather, it is also intended to capture other vulnerable people in our community such as the elderly.

On 25 October 2017 the then attorney-general and minister for justice and minister for training and skills referred an inquiry to the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council to review the adequacy of penalties imposed on sentence for criminal offences arising from the death of a child following significant and ongoing community concern about whether such sentences are meeting expectations. On 21 November 2018 the council released its report, *Sentencing for criminal offences arising from the death of a child*. The report contains eight recommendations and presents four areas of advice to provide an evidence based response to improve sentencing practices for child homicide. Also on 21 November 2018 the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Leader of the House announced that the government will implement all recommendations from the report and introduce amendments to expand the definition of murder to include reckless indifference to human life.

The bill implements recommendation 1 of the report by amending section 9 of the Penalties and Sentences Act 1992 to provide that in sentencing an adult offender convicted of the manslaughter of a child under 12 years the court must treat the child's defencelessness and vulnerability, having regard to the child's age, as an aggravating factor. This is the only report recommendation requiring legislative change. The amendment to the definition of murder will operate prospectively to offences committed after commencement. Work is progressing by the Queensland Police Service, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions and the Department of Justice and Attorney-General to implement the other report recommendations to ensure that, as far as possible, the justice system is responsive to the needs and expectations of bereaved family members of victims of child homicide.

In conclusion, I acknowledge and thank all of the stakeholders for their time provided during consultation in development of this bill. I also thank the family members who have tragically lost a child and who have advocated long and hard for changes to our law to ensure that sentencing adequately reflects community expectations. I commend the bill to the House and I recommend that the Criminal Code and Other Legislation (Mason Jett Lee) Amendment Bill 2019 not be passed.

 **Mr ANDREW** (Mirani—PHON) (4.23 pm): I rise to speak to the Criminal Code and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019. I want to thank the committee and the secretariat for the effort and consideration towards this bill. I also want to thank the stakeholders who gave evidence during the public hearings such as Bravehearts, the CCC, the Bar Association of Queensland, the Queensland Law Society, J4H or Justice for Hemi and family members. Taking the life of a child is a reprehensible crime, whether done intentionally or by reckless indifference. Courts regularly give people lighter jail sentences for child manslaughter than they give to people convicted of adult manslaughter. Information provided during the public hearings from Shane Burke and Kerri-Ann Goodwin raised the issue of mitigating factors and aggravating factors when sentencing is considered for the defendant. It would seem that cooperation with police can lead to sentence reductions.

The opposition bill, the Mason Jett Lee bill, is designed to be tougher and more definitive than the government bill. Clause 10 relating to child homicide in the opposition bill creates a special offence category of child homicide which is to fit below murder and above manslaughter—that is, where the facts prove murder or intent to kill, the existing murder offence is to apply. Where the facts prove manslaughter with aggravating circumstance of the victim—the child—being in the care of the offender, then this new offence would apply. This is tougher than the government bill, which only seeks the fact of the victim being a child to be a circumstance of aggravation in sentencing.

Clause 15 relates to mandatory sentencing for murder. Mandatory sentencing for anything is controversial as it removes judicial discretion and the parliament can never foresee all the facts in every possible case that will be before the courts in the future. There is usually solid opposition to mandatory sentencing as being interventionist government. It has appeal as being a quick path to tough sentencing, but there are other ways to get judges to set sentences more in line with community expectations, including judicial bench book instructions. Mandatory non-parole periods set by parliament are a strategy against out-of-touch judges. When employed, they usually err on the side of shorter rather than longer periods to take account of the fact that the parliament cannot possibly have all the facts of every case available to it. The opposition bill puts up 25 years as a minimum sentence.

The government bill is nothing to do with the royal commission recommendations. Rather, it arises from recommendations of the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council. Clause 3 relates to defining murder as including reckless indifference. The issue here is whether a person intended to kill a person, which is the usual threshold for murder. Reckless indifference is setting a new and lower threshold for murder. It is usually associated with manslaughter—that is, death was caused but not necessarily intended. The usual analogy is that of firing a weapon out of a window randomly and a person is killed. The firer did not intend to kill that specific person—that is, not murder—but death of a person was a foreseeable consequence of the fact—that is, manslaughter.

One has to ask: what is the practical scenario the government is trying to address? On one hand it is perhaps suggesting that acts such as a bomb—terrorism—would be covered as murder given the indiscriminate nature of the weapon vis-a-vis the victim. There is perhaps a loophole that a terrorist bomb is manslaughter. It is the responsibility of the government to make its case to the parliament as to why we should support this bill. On the other hand, what about the unintended consequence of the legislation? What about a farmer operating machinery that causes death or using chemicals and some of those chemicals end up downstream and kill people? Is that reckless indifference? If so, is it more correct for it to be murder or manslaughter?

Clause 9 relates to the manslaughter of a child in terms of sentencing. The fact that the victim is a child is a circumstance of aggregation. This is pretty uncontroversial and long overdue and addresses the problem of out-of-touch judges. It maintains judicial discretion, gives judges guidance, protects sentencing from appeal but does not overreach the parliament into every single court case.


The bill increases penalties in section 324 of the Criminal Code for failure to supply necessities, and this reflects the seriousness of the offence. It also updates definition of murder sentencing guidelines to add weight to crimes against children under 12 years of age. The government cannot have it both ways. It would appear that only a part of the work concerning the royal commission's recommendations has been adopted. The government has turned its back on key recommendations, including recommendations 89 and 90 of the 2015 *Redress and civil litigation report*. The government has put forward this bill. It is one thing to implement sentencing reforms but, at the same time, this government is ignoring key reforms to make institutions accountable for child abuse.

This government is wasting so many opportunities to implement all of the royal commission recommendations. Experts have advised that the government should implement the following policy objectives. The first would be to define child abuse, including all its forms of abuse. Secondly, the strict liability of institutions; thirdly, the retrospectivity of institutional liability—

Mrs D'ATH: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I am very hesitant to rise to a point of order in relation to this debate. However, the member for Mirani seems to be talking in relation to the civil liability bill, which is not what we are debating today. We are debating the changes to the Criminal Code in relation to child homicide. I ask the member to come back to this bill, because he is anticipating debate on another bill.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms McMillan): Thank you, Attorney-General. Member, please return to the long title of this bill.

Mr ANDREW: If this government is serious about justice for children and preventing crimes against children, it will implement all the recommendations of the royal commission. We need to start listening to child protection experts.

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (4.30 pm): Changing these laws is the right thing to do. Changing these laws will put victims first. Changing these laws means that those who would do harm to our most vulnerable people will be treated in the manner they deserve.

I rise to speak to the Criminal Code and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 in this cognate debate. Let us not mince words. A person who deliberately or recklessly causes the death of a child is a murderer and should be treated as such. That is what these new laws will do. It is what the community expects. It is what this government will do. The law is not a static, unbending, unchanging entity that sits gathering dust in the corner of a courtroom. The law must be alive to the valid expectations of the community it serves. Laws evolve just as society does. That is what this government is doing with its bill. It is evolving the law.


It is no small thing to change the law. Therefore, it is important that any changes are carefully thought out. We need to be ever vigilant to unintended consequences. When changing the law, we need to make sure that those changes are evidence based. That is what the government is doing. Its

changes have been carefully considered. Thought bubble laws do not work. We have seen that in the past. Laws, no matter how superficially appealing, have to work. A law that does not work is no law at all.

The Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council examined these issues very carefully. As a consequence, the government is making amendments to expand the definition of murder to include reckless indifference to human life. Under these changes, those who recklessly cause the death of the vulnerable are murderers. In addition, when an adult offender is convicted of the manslaughter of a child under 12 years, the court must treat the child's defencelessness and vulnerability, having regard to the child's age, as an aggravating factor. The bill also increases the maximum penalty for failure to supply the necessities of life from three years to seven years imprisonment. These laws are not limited to child victims. They will also apply to those who harm other vulnerable people in the community, such as elderly people.

A short time earlier I spoke about unintended consequences. We do not want to see those involved in a tragic accident—people who had no intention of causing another's death—being treated as murderers. I do not want to speak too much about the opposition's alternative proposals, except to say this. Once more, when it comes to critical matters of law, those opposite show a lack of understanding. Their sentencing proposals risk the unintended consequences that I have spoken of. It risks people, who are guilty of being inadvertently involved in a tragic accident, spending 15 years in jail. That person would get the same sentence as someone who deliberately or recklessly caused the death of a vulnerable person—in other words, an unintended consequence. These are important matters and should not be reduced to some kind of tough-on-crime arms race in search of a favourable headline. The victims and their families deserve better from those of us who inhabit this House.

I simply make the point that, under the government's legislation, by expanding the definition of murder, offenders face a life sentence, or 20 years in prison. Under the alternative child manslaughter plan of those opposite, the maximum penalty is 15 years. More important than any difference in sentencing, it is important to call things as they are. Under our new laws, those who recklessly kill a vulnerable person will be recognised as murderers, because that is what they are. I support the government's bill in this debate and I encourage all members to vote accordingly.

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (4.35 pm): I rise to speak in this cognate debate not to oppose the government's bill but to very strongly support the bill that has been presented by the shadow Attorney-General. There is no greater crime than taking the life of another human being, but I think an even more distressing crime is when the life of a child is taken—of course, a life taken far too early. As lawmakers, one of the great responsibilities that we have is to make sure that we protect the most vulnerable in our community and that we punish those who would do what for most of us is the unthinkable and that is to take a child's life.

As you grow older and mature, you have different life experiences. I have been very fortunate to have four children and now I have two grandchildren. When you have that experience and perspective you have some appreciation of the loss that a family must go through when they lose a child. I know that I speak for many members in this House when I say that, quite simply, I cannot read news articles or finish news articles when they go into the details of the abuse a young child received which, unfortunately, also led to their death. My sympathies go to those families who have experienced this great heartache. I cannot imagine what it would be like. As I said, one of the responsibilities that we have in this House is to make sure that we do everything possible to deter anybody from thinking about, let alone contemplating, such a heinous act.

I commend the government in that it has attempted to make some changes to the Criminal Code to cover the situations that we have been talking about. I think members of the public become infuriated when they hear about these cases, when they see them on television, when they read about them, and then, when they see the judicial process take place, it often seems that people have got off very lightly, that the sentence does not fit the severity of the crime. That makes people angry and frustrated. I can totally understand that.

It is important that we have laws that reflect community standards and community expectations. It is inappropriate for members of the parliament to try to interfere in the judiciary when it is handing down a sentence, or hearing a case, but, as legislators, we can change the law. That is what I know the shadow Attorney-General is attempting to do with the bill that he has presented.


As well intentioned as the government bill may be, unfortunately it falls short. It tinkers around the edges. It looks at new definitions and increasing sentences. If I was to compare the government's proposed legislation to the shadow Attorney-General's legislation, the difference is that with the government's laws there is a possibility that there could be increased sentencing whereas with the

shadow Attorney-General's laws there is absolutely an iron-clad guarantee that people will be incarcerated for longer periods of time. That is why we are bringing this bill before the House. We are not afraid to bring in minimum non-parole periods which is so appropriate with this type of crime.

The bill that the shadow Attorney-General has brought in guarantees that a person convicted of child murder will spend a minimum of 25 years in prison. Unlike Labor, the LNP will guarantee that a person convicted of child manslaughter will spend a minimum of 15 years in prison. That is double the average of what offenders are currently getting. Too many people have been getting off too easily for too long. That is why it is important that we play our role as legislators and make sure that we have laws that reflect community standards.

I cannot imagine how frustrated I would be as a parent who lost a child or a grandparent who lost a grandchild through some murderous act to see some sort of plea bargaining arrangement take place and the offender getting a sentence that is manifestly inadequate. Unfortunately we are seeing that time and time again.

I commend the government with regard to its intention to try to strengthen these laws, but our argument on this side of the House is that it did not go far enough. It is important that we can give those families that have been through these difficult times a sense that justice has been done. Nothing will ever bring their child back, nothing will relieve their pain and their anguish, but at least we can make sure that perpetrators are given the sentence that they deserve for such heinous crimes. I commend the shadow Attorney-General's bill to the House.

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (4.40 pm): I rise to speak on the Criminal Code and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019. From time to time we see in the media reports of children being murdered or horribly injured by a person who should be taking care of them. There is a display of genuine shock and horror from the community, sometimes public displays of flowers, toys and cards; at times there are public vigils where grief for the children is expressed, along with support for the family and a commitment to protect children. Most members of the community just get on with their lives. For the parents, family and friends of the child or children it is not so simple. Their lives and hearts have been shattered into a million pieces and they will never be fully whole again without their beautiful children.

The community of Mackay has witnessed firsthand the ongoing grief of the courageous Goodwin-Burke family. Shane and Kerri-Ann and family had their precious Hemi brutally taken from them by a person they trusted and considered to be a close friend. They had acted as responsible, caring and loving parents. They were duped by a terrible predator. I am not going to give him the privilege of having his name mentioned in parliament. A man who can torture a child does not deserve to have his name spoken. The pain for Shane and Kerri-Ann was exacerbated when Hemi's killer had his charges downgraded from murder to manslaughter. They know that their baby boy's life was worth more than the sentence handed down.

It was after the trial, when they started the journey of justice for their baby, that I first met the beautiful, caring Shane and Kerri-Ann. Their pain is palatable, etched on their faces. They are the most brave and dignified couple I have had the pleasure to meet. Shane and Kerri-Ann have used this terrible tragedy to protect all other children. Since Hemi's life was taken they have worked tirelessly, lobbied, printing 'justice for Hemi' stickers, banners and T-shirts, they have written numerous letters to politicians from both sides of the political spectrum and they have conducted statewide petitions. One thing that they have never done is give up. They are fighting for all children. Along this journey they have had tremendous setbacks and disappointments with the legal and court system. They are determined to keep Hemi's memory in the public arena to save other children.

Shane and Kerri-Ann have never let an opportunity slip by to lobby. They heard the Premier was in Mackay. They tracked her down to the office of the worksite for the Mackay Ring Road where she was inspecting initial works with the former member for Mirani, Jim Pearce, and me. The police alerted the Premier's staff that there were protestors out on the roadside. We took a look out and we saw it was Shane and Kerri-Ann. Because of their tenacity they had a roadside meeting with the Premier and they told their heartbreaking story.

Because of the lobbying of Shane and Kerri-Ann, and other families sadly in the same position, on 25 October 2017 the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice referred an inquiry to the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council to review the adequacy of penalties imposed on sentences for criminal offences arising from the death of a child following significant and ongoing community concern about whether such sentences are meeting expectations. As a result, here we are today debating the Criminal Code and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019. This bill is for all the families, all the children and all the vulnerable citizens across Queensland. I commend the bill to the House.



Mr MICKELBERG (Buderim—LNP) (4.47 pm): I rise to contribute to the cognate debate on the Criminal Code and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019, the Labor government's proposal to address current weak sentencing practices around child homicide, along with the Criminal Code and Other Legislation (Mason Jett Lee) Amendment Bill 2019, the LNP's proposal to enforce stronger penalties for homicide offences involving the death of a child.

In my contribution today I hope to give voice to the deep concerns of my community who feel that our criminal justice system is failing the vulnerable and the defenceless. I will outline why I believe that stronger penalties are needed in relation to homicide offences involving children. I quote—

... crimes against children are treated so softly in this state, it's just unbelievable. We need to start again.

I just don't understand how you can deliberately torture, sadistically torture a child and get away with less than four years.

Anybody that would do what this man did to that child deserves to get life, to never get out.

Those are the words of child protection advocate Hetty Johnston in response to the pathetically out-of-touch sentencing of William Andrew O'Sullivan who tortured and abused a vulnerable, defenceless 22-month-old boy, Mason Jett Lee.

After years of seeing the worst of humanity, there are few news stories that move me like that of poor little Mason Jett Lee. Hearing of the abuse and the lack of love and care that that little boy, the same age as my own son, had to endure brings me to tears. I, like many Queenslanders, feel so desperately sad that we as a community failed an innocent boy when we had an obligation to protect him. It makes me not only sad; it makes me angry. It makes me angry because we can do more. It makes me angry because that little boy suffered because we failed him. It is not about politics. It is about us as community representatives doing everything that we can to protect the vulnerable. Surely that is our first obligation?

I understand that when deciding on a sentence judges must consider the principles of punishment, rehabilitation, deterrence, denunciation and community protection. It is my view that the current sentences do not adequately consider the impact of offending on victims and the broader community. It is clear that sentencing weighs the impact of proposed imprisonment on the offender, but in my opinion too much weight is given to this consideration.

In the case of Mason Jett Lee, the man who killed him was sentenced to nine years by the Chief Justice, but he will be eligible for parole in July 2022. He was not even sentenced as a serious violent offender. I understand that the Chief Justice decided to not make a declaration because of the offender's guilty plea, lack of a history of violent offending and he had suffered from a 'savage assault' during pre-trial custody. At least he had the chance to defend himself, which is more than can be said for Mason Jett Lee. The fact that the life of a man who killed a 22-month-old boy is going to be tough in jail should not come into it. In my opinion, Mason Jett Lee's killer, William Andrew O'Sullivan, deserves to rot in jail for the rest of his life. Based on what they have told me, I am confident that the majority of my constituents agree with my position.


The judiciary often cite that the community is not in possession of all of the facts in relation to a particular instance of offending and, therefore, is not in a position to develop an informed opinion as to the appropriateness of any particular sentence. Such a view disrespects the public. A recent study known as the Tasmanian Jury Sentencing Study sought to remove this consideration by gauging public opinion on sentencing through questioning jurors in criminal trials about the appropriateness of sentences for that trial. The study found that, in relation to many offences, jurors' sentencing expectations were either in line with or, indeed, in many cases, softer than those imposed by judges. However, notably in the case of violent offences 66 per cent of respondents thought that sentences delivered by judges were too weak. In the case of sex offences 70 per cent thought that sentences were too weak. To be clear, those are the results from a study that aims to ensure that all expressing an opinion were in possession of all of the facts.

For me, it is pretty clear that sentencing in relation to serious violent offences and offences against children are not reflective of community expectation. Given the failure of the judiciary to sentence in line with community expectation, I feel that it is appropriate to impose mandatory sentences in such instances. I note that the Queensland Law Society and the Bar Association consider that mandatory sentencing is not an appropriate restriction to impose upon the criminal justice system and that it raises inefficiencies and results in an erosion of judicial independence. For me, the need for appropriate sentences in relation to the worst offending far outweighs any such issues.

We know that, as a consequence of the difficulties in prosecuting cases involving children, offenders are often able to plead down to lesser charges such as manslaughter. Killing a child in any circumstance is a tragedy and doing so either deliberately or by neglect goes against everything that a civilised society should accept. Those who do so should be punished adequately.

Because of this, the LNP's bill proposes to create a new child homicide offence that will mean offenders convicted of child manslaughter will serve a mandatory minimum sentence of 15 years. Our bill seeks to recognise and protect the vulnerable and the defenceless who, as a consequence of their age or due to their capacity, are often at increased risk. Our laws will not apply to accidental deaths such as where a child drowns in a dam or is accidentally run over. Our laws will also ensure that those of unsound mind, such as those suffering from postnatal depression, will have a defence and that is an appropriate safeguard.

I support stronger penalties for offences against children because such offences are a blight on our community. Any step that we as community representatives can take to protect the vulnerable needs to be considered. I will be supporting the government's bill because any action that we can take to improve the current situation should be supported. However, I call on the government to hear the community's voice on this issue and support the LNP's proposal for stronger sentences to ensure that those who commit these terrible offences are dealt with appropriately.

 **Mr HUNT** (Nicklin—LNP) (4.55 pm): Mason Jett Lee was 22 months old when he was horrifically assaulted and killed. In Queensland, the best we could do was put the killer in prison for four years. Mason's name appears in our bill as a reminder to the community of how the systems fail. We commit to the community that the LNP will not stand by and do nothing while child killers are set free after serving outrageously short sentences. As the shadow Attorney-General has previously mentioned, unfortunately there are many cases and examples of these incidents.

We would not be in the House today debating legislation to increase sentences if the system was working. Clearly it is not. Whilst I support the government's bill, it does not go nearly far enough and does not address the failures in the system. When we in this House start using terms such as 'mandatory minimums', it is because we have come to a point where the system is clearly not meeting the expectations of the community. It is up to the parliament to make clear where those failures lie and attempt to rectify them. When the system fails so miserably, it is time to be cautious about taking advice from those within the system, especially those who would assert that everything is okay and that no changes need to be made.

As we have seen from the many examples brought before the House, often child killers are convicted or plead guilty to manslaughter rather than murder, as it is difficult to prove intent. The offer of a plea can be a way of ensuring a conviction rather than risk an acquittal at trial due to the difficulties of proving murderous intent. The current maximum sentence for manslaughter is life imprisonment. The sentence exists for judges to use. Maximum sentences are there for the most serious of crimes committed. However, what could be more serious than bashing a child to death? It is hard to imagine a more hideous or serious breach of this section of the Criminal Code, but what has happened to our system over time?

In this state we have allowed the sentencing of criminals to become an auction to the bottom—bit by bit, year after year, offender after offender, each using the selective precedents of other sentences to reduce their own. It is the job of their legal representatives to obtain the lowest sentence possible and they have become quite skilled at that practice. Judges have a difficult job and must be guided by these precedents. However, bit by bit it has been chipped away to the point where a killer who bashes a child to death can be held in prison for only four years. It is outrageous, it is wrong and the community has had enough. The government's response to this outrage is the bill now before the House. It goes some way towards addressing this, but it does not go far enough.


Clearly, increasing maximum sentences does not work. They just become part of the sentencing auction and, over time, we are in the same place as today. Minimums are the only way to go. The LNP bill before the House achieves this. They are tough laws and it takes courage to put them through this parliament. Clearly, it is courage that the government have a chance to show but I fear from their contributions they will not. Week after week, we come into this House and support legislation put forward by the government. We do not always agree and we do not always support, but often we do. This government has arrogantly not supported any of our motions or legislation. If it is not their idea, they are not interested. I know that there would be members opposite who would love to see our bill succeed in the House; in fact, from the very short speakers' list on the government side I can only assume that on such a vital topic as the protection of children they are too embarrassed to speak against our bill, and will sit idly by toeing the party line and again vote down good legislation.

Those opposite have the opportunity to work with us. Those opposite have the opportunity to join us and the community at large in a tough response by the parliament that says that we have had enough, that it is just not good enough, that bashing a child to death warrants spending more than four short years in prison. I have mentioned in this parliament many times now my 30 years as a police officer, 25 of those under a Labor government that got us to this point where we have to debate in parliament a justice system that lets out a child killer after serving just four years. How did we get to this? It is a generation of failure that has seen more and more emphasis placed on the rights of the accused than justice for the victims. Who are our most defenceless victims? Who are our most vulnerable victims? Who deserves protection and justice the most? Our children.

One objective of the government bill is to insert a new aggravating factor into the sentencing principles to provide that, in sentencing an adult offender convicted of the manslaughter of a child under 12 years, the court must treat the child's defencelessness and vulnerability having regard to the child's age as an aggravating factor. I would be extremely surprised if a judge did not already take this into account as it is indeed already required under good sentencing practices.

Although it is a good start to provide this aggravating factor principle and it will be supported by the LNP, this will not ensure adequate sentencing. The other strategy of expanding the definition of murder to try and get a conviction on a higher charge will often still see plea bargains down to manslaughter and the inadequate sentencing we see today. We will however support this as a measure that may assist in a small way. The increase in the 'fail to provide necessities' penalty from three years to seven years is also welcome. But, as I said before, increasing maximums does not necessarily translate to acceptable sentencing in line with community expectations.

I urge those opposite who I suspect support our bill and are staying silent to vote with us and to work with us to protect our children and see justice done. They know that the families of victims support it. I urge members of the government to park their egos and arrogance this once and protect the community. The community and victims' families are crying out to this parliament to be heard. They are crying out to this parliament for protection. They are crying out to this parliament for justice. Let us give it to them.

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (5.04 pm): As reflected in the final report handed down by the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council, and in the issues considered in its review, proving intent in the death of a child can be challenging. It is important to recognise, as outlined in the council's consultation paper, three of the major issues impacting on prosecuting child homicide offences include the complexity of determining the cause of death; the common involvement of the parents, carers or other family members; and establishing intent.

Many Queenslanders note that the proposed changes will expand the definition of murder to include reckless indifference to human life, incorporate the defencelessness and vulnerability of victims under the age of 12 as an aggravating factor, and increase the maximum penalty for failure to supply necessities from three years to seven years imprisonment. It is acknowledged that many submitters to the committee fully support these proposed changes.

It is clear through the work of the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council that current penalties for causing the death of a child do not meet community expectations nor properly reflect the nature of these crimes and the defencelessness and vulnerability of the child victims. Many submitters agree with the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council consultation which found that sentencing for manslaughter cases involving the direct use of violence against a young child is not viewed by the community as adequate as the sentences do not reflect the unique and significant vulnerabilities of these children. The introduction of the new aggravating factor will support the court's treatment of these offences as more serious and therefore deserving of greater punishment. This would also send a positive message to the broader community and to potential offenders that this behaviour is unacceptable and will incur lengthier prison sentences.

The killing of a child is a despicable crime that is not tolerated by the LNP, the Queensland or Australian communities, particularly when the crime involved violence and neglect. Court data tells us that offenders convicted of the manslaughter of a child are sentenced to less time in prison than offenders convicted of the manslaughter of an adult. The LNP believes that there is a need for stronger penalties for cases that involve the murder or manslaughter of a child.

National and international research indicates that between eight and 19 per cent of all homicides involve child victims. While overall the crime of homicide involves more adult victims than child victims, when a child death is recorded it is five times more likely to be due to a homicide than is the case with a death in the adult population. A child is at greatest risk of homicide in their first year of life. Risk of

homicide significantly decreases as a child matures and increases again in the later teenage years. This is confirmed by the council's research findings which identified the highest proportion of child homicides involved those under one year of age. The next highest proportion were children aged between 15 and 17 years. Family members are the most common perpetrators of child homicide, with parents or parent equivalents representing the highest proportion of perpetrators. This pattern is somewhat different for older child victims who are more likely to be killed by a person unknown to them.

The council's research confirms that child homicide is a diverse offence category and occurs in a broad range of circumstances, making it difficult to identify a typical child homicide case. That is why we propose to increase the sentence for those who murder a child from 20 to 25 years to bring Queensland law in line with other states and territories and to create a new child homicide offence which will mean offenders convicted of child manslaughter will serve a mandatory minimum sentence of 15 years, the maximum penalty for manslaughter. The proposed child homicide offence would apply to any person who kills a child by an act or omission, including an act of violence, a sexual offence or a breach of the duty of the Criminal Code. Violence includes vigorous shaking, punching, kicking, stamping, throwing, squeezing, suffocating, strangling or engagement in any violent act that causes the child's death. The intent of our debate today is to recognise and protect vulnerable and defenceless children, whether it is their age or capacity that increases their vulnerability. We must send a stronger message on sentencing.

Today we are also debating the areas of diminished responsibility, killing on provocation and killing for preservation in an abusive domestic relationship. These defences, such as the defence of diminished responsibility, will offer protection to women who are of unsound mind by reasons of not having fully recovered from childbirth. This will ensure judicial discretion in sentencing is maintained in cases such as where a person is of unsound mind.

The child homicide offence will not apply to accidental deaths such as where a child drowns or is run over. The LNP believes that mandatory sentencing is necessary because courts are bound by low sentences and Queensland does not have decades to wait for precedents to change. Unlike those opposite, we can guarantee that a person convicted of child murder will spend a minimum of 25 years in prison. I think that from the debate that is a reasonable expectation. We can also guarantee that a person convicted of child manslaughter will spend a minimum of 15 years in prison. This is double the average sentence that offenders are currently getting.

The LNP have a track record of introducing a number of criminal law reforms aimed at protecting children. We are committed to ensuring that the length of sentences imposed on child killers reflects the gravity of their crimes. It is disturbing to hear time and time again from the judicial system that every case is different and that judges need discretion et cetera. It makes sense that submitters to the committee's inquiry asked for explanations as to why convictions in cases basically have the same sentence. There are some examples that are difficult to read, but I will do so in the interests of the debate.


In 2012 Michael Humphreys was sentenced to nine years for the death of a 31-day-old girl, Paige, who died from a fractured skull. Rick Cataldo was sentenced to eight years but paroled after three years and nine months for the death of a 57-day-old girl, Lily,. Nicholas Baxter was sentenced to nine years for the death of a six-week-old boy, Matthew, in 2011. Heidi Strbak was sentenced to nine years but paroled after four years for the death of a four-year-old boy—and we all remember Tyrell—in 2009. Matthew Williamson was sentenced to nine years but paroled after seven years for killing a three-year-old girl, Kyhesha-Lee, in 2013.

Colin Randall was sentenced to nine years but paroled after five years for killing a 10-week-old boy, Kyle, in 2014. Matthew Ireland was sentenced to eight years and six months but is due for parole in June this year for killing 18-month-old Hemi—and we acknowledge the family in the gallery today: thanks for your strength. Ry Smith was sentenced to nine years for killing a four-month-old boy, Lennox, in 2013. Anne Maree Lee was sentenced to nine years but is due for parole in July 2019 for killing a 22-month-old boy. We all know Mason Jett Lee's tragic story.

The death of any child is a tragedy and the death of a child at the hands of another is even more insidious. This highly emotional circumstance deserves the full attention of this House in the debate this afternoon. We must respect the parents, the families and the communities who have lost some of the most vulnerable young lives in our community.

It has been articulated well by many in this House that there is a lot more to be done, particularly in child protection and child safety. We welcome reforms as they challenge us on our journey in this House. Sometimes we debate things in this House that are very difficult to comprehend, but one thing

we can do is to make sure that this House sends a message to all of those people who are considering or get caught up in the homicide of a child or have violent behaviours towards children. There are consequences from the Queensland government—and that is from all sides. I reflect that we do consider, as the LNP's private member's bill does, that strong laws should reflect community expectations, particularly around sentencing.

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (5.12 pm): I rise to support the Criminal Code and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 and to oppose the private member's bill. The death of any child is tragic. It is particularly confronting and difficult to understand when a person who is responsible for providing care for a child is responsible for their death, particularly through the use of violence. Children are vulnerable and they rely on the adults around them to provide the care and protection they need to survive and to develop and to thrive. Mason Jett Lee's case was particularly tragic because those adults who were supposed to care for him most failed so drastically to do so. Certainly my own department had to confront many issues and challenges at that time, and has made significant changes as a result of the learnings from that tragic case. We continue to strive for improvement.

Unfortunately, we hear all too often about cases of parents completely abrogating their responsibility. There are too many cases where children are harmed by the actions or inaction of those around them. Unfortunately, the staff in my department hear those stories more than anybody else. I want to acknowledge the work that the staff of the child safety department do day in and day out. They are confronted with depravity, with the darkest aspects of humanity that anyone could possibly imagine. They are seeing things in their daily work which the average person on the street could not even begin to understand. When I hear their stories and when I read the briefs, I am horrified at the extent of the actions that parents or people who are supposed to love their children perpetrate against those children, the most vulnerable in our society.

The widespread media coverage of the death of Mason Lee and the role of his mother and stepfather has quite rightly led to community anger and outrage. I understand community concerns that the sentences given to people convicted for offences relating to the death of a vulnerable child are not adequate. I share them and so does every right-minded person in this country.

The Attorney-General and Minister for Justice did not head down the path of vigilantism and hysteria in response to this. She responded to those concerns quite properly by asking the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council, QSAC, to review the penalties imposed on sentence for criminal offences arising from the death of a child. We know that they made eight recommendations to better reflect the vulnerability and defencelessness of victims of child homicide in sentencing and to improve system responses for family members of child victims.

QSAC found that sentencing for manslaughter cases involving the direct use of violence against a young child does not reflect community views and does not adequately reflect the unique and significant vulnerabilities of child victims. The QSAC report tells us that generally as people are informed about the specific details of a case and the criminal justice system they are more likely to view sentences imposed as appropriate. However, this is not the case where crimes against children are concerned. QSAC found that the extent to which sentences for child manslaughter are viewed as adequate is dependent on factors such as the nature of the conduct involved and perceptions about the child victim's level of vulnerability. They were of the view that sentencing for manslaughter cases involving the direct use of violence against a young child does not reflect community views and does not adequately reflect the unique and significant vulnerabilities of child victims.

Once again, the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice acted appropriately and responsively and introduced the Criminal Code and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019. I believe that the government's bill addresses community concerns. It expands the definition of murder to include the reckless indifference to human life. It increases the maximum penalty for the offence of failing to supply necessities under section 324 of the Criminal Code from three years to seven years imprisonment. It introduces a new statutory aggravating factor in sentencing an adult offender convicted of the manslaughter of a child under 12 years into the Penalties and Sentences Act 1992 as recommended by QSAC.

It was interesting to read the words of QSAC in talking about the background and the sentencing guidelines around the new aggravating factor. They say—

Given improved understanding of the significant long-term impacts of child abuse and neglect, and changes in community attitudes about the use of physical punishment against children, higher sentences for these offences, particularly those involving the direct use of violence, in the Council's view are warranted.

The opposition's response in their bill is to increase the mandatory minimum non-parole period for murder of a child from 20 to 25 years and to introduce a new offence of child homicide that carries a mandatory penalty of life imprisonment with a mandatory minimum non-parole period of 15 years imprisonment. It also amends the Youth Justice Act.

The LNP bill wants to take away the discretion of the court which sees, hears and weighs every bit of evidence and then makes an informed decision about the penalty based on all of the circumstances. Instead of guiding the court by changing penalties, I believe they want to take away that knowledge. I do not support mandatory sentencing. It means that courts cannot treat like cases alike and different cases differently, particularly for offences like manslaughter that cover a wide range of factual circumstances. It also means that an individual offender's circumstances—like their criminal history, remorse and other life circumstances—cannot be taken into consideration. It disproportionately affects Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and, importantly, it does not deter offenders. It may increase the likelihood of offending and it may also act as a disincentive for people to plead guilty so that witnesses and the victim's family face the uncertainty and delays of a trial and the system experiences increased costs.

I want to comment briefly on the support that we need to give to families so we do not see the sorts of behaviours from young children in Queensland and the impacts on them. We have made a significant investment in our Supporting Families Changing Futures reform program, known as the Carmody reforms. We are midway through those reforms and we are starting to see some real impacts from working with families in an intensive and supportive way. By working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families early on, we are reducing to a third the number of children who need to progress through the child safety system. By working with non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families, we are reducing the number of children who need to progress through the system by around 12 per cent.

These are really significant early impacts. We need to really be committed to working with families to make sure they have that capacity and they know what it means to parent, nurture and love those people whom they have the ultimate responsibility for. This parliament has that ultimate responsibility as well. I commend the government's bill to the House.



Mr MILLAR (Gregory—LNP) (5.22 pm): I support mandatory sentencing for child killers. It is one of the most horrendous crimes we can ever see in our community. If a child is intentionally taken early in life by a person, it is the most horrific crime that we can have in our society. Our children play an important role. They are our most important resource when it comes to making this state and this country better. If someone takes their life intentionally, they should face mandatory sentencing.

These matters are very serious. Sadly, they have been prompted by many shameful and tragic cases in recent years. This topic is a difficult one to discuss but, as the testimony to the committee showed, the widespread social disgust it engenders is dwarfed only by the terrible burden of grief that the families of victims are left with. I acknowledge those in the gallery tonight. I thank those who testified before the committee. I hope you see in the deliberations of the House today some solace in your pain. Please accept my most sincere and heartfelt condolences for your tragic loss.

All of us in this House have been left shocked and distressed by these cases. There is a widespread feeling in my seat of Gregory that this House needs to address the situation that sees the offence of manslaughter of a child attracting a lesser sentence than the offence of manslaughter of an adult. According to QSAC, it can be up to two or more years. Intuitively, this seems a nonsense. We do not value our children in a lesser way than our adults. I know that for a fact.

As legislators, we sometimes have the responsibility of facing the hard questions, and the value of a child's life must be among the hardest. Indeed, as a parent, I can barely stand to contemplate these cases. It is heartbreaking—absolutely heartbreaking. I am making this contribution because I want to see laws that are clear and stern. If you take the life of a child by murder or reckless indifference, you will face the most stringent of consequences and you will face them most certainly—no ifs or buts. Because of their very defencelessness, because of their very dependence on the adults around them, we should cherish the life of every child in Queensland, and our laws and institutions should reflect that. Otherwise it is lip-service, and these dreadful tragedies will continue to shame us and, most importantly, break our hearts.

The government's bill makes a good start to addressing the issue by expanding the definition of murder to include reckless indifference to human life. Many Queensland child killers have only been charged with manslaughter because an offence of murder requires the prosecution to be able to prove the intent of murder. This proof can be difficult to establish, although the outcome is devastatingly clear.

Every time we see one of these tragic cases come before the courts, it is clear that there has been a reckless indifference towards the welfare of the most important person—the child. This offence of reckless murder does indeed exist in several other Australian jurisdictions. I know from constituents who have spoken to me about these cases that Queenslanders feel very deeply that it should exist in Queensland's jurisdiction.

If the likely outcome of your action is loss of life and you continue with those actions, to my mind you are just as guilty as someone who plans and intends the death of another in any other way. The charge of recklessness will extend not only to children but to anyone—the disabled, seniors, teenagers, victims of domestic violence. I also welcome the legislation addressing the issue of failure to provide the necessities of life. Children are particularly vulnerable; we all know that. They are essentially defenceless. I am pleased to see this recognised and addressed by treating the defencelessness of the child as an aggravation. Treating this as an aggravation in no way restricts the court's ability to take account of the other factors listed in section 9 of the Penalties and Sentences Act, such as violence and domestic violence.

I welcome the government's bill, but I do not believe it is robust enough. It adds an aggravation factor to what is already a long list of aggravating factors which should already be reflected in sentencing but which in practice can lead to a lawyers picnic of plea bargaining. I can only imagine that, for the family of the victim, this is an added injury. Evidence from New South Wales does show us this concern is real if you only take the approach of treating the age of the child as an aggravation.

The LNP bill would guarantee, through mandatory sentencing, that child killers will receive a sentence equal to the horror of their actions, a sentence that reflects community attitudes to this horrendous crime, a sentence that addresses justice for the victim and the family of the victim. I say this to the government so they understand: I stand here supporting the government's bill but I am asking them to support the LNP's bill. By passing both bills, we will be able to obtain the best outcomes for Queenslanders in such serious matters. This surely must be our paramount concern.

We are talking about something that is incredibly important. I want the families of the children who have been lost to understand that our hearts break. Every child's life in this state is incredibly important. I know both sides of the House are trying to do what they can to make sure we have the right sentences available, but I ask those opposite on the government side to support the LNP bill.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the member for Toowoomba South, the shadow Attorney-General, who has done a wonderful job in putting his private member's bill together. I have three children of my own and he has two beautiful daughters and a son, and I know that some of the issues that he has had to face with this bill have been heartbreaking. I also pay respect to the police officers in this chamber who have seen things that we never have to see, who have gone to victims of this sort of violence and had to investigate but also communicate to those families in a way that would have been hard.

As a parliament we have to provide the best laws and severe penalties if someone takes a child's life. A child is so precious to us. A child is so precious to this community in Queensland and to Australia because they are our future. Take a child's life and you may be taking the person who cures cancer, the person who is the next doctor, the person who is the next physicist, the person who is the next person to do something incredibly special for this great state. That is why we need to put in place penalties so that if someone takes a child's life they face a mandatory jail sentence and they do not see the end of jail.

Debate, on motion of Mr Millar, adjourned.

SPEAKER'S RULING

Tabling of Documents; Members for Maryborough and Buderim, Conduct in Chamber



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, earlier today the member for Kawana tabled some documents in a matter of public interest. On 21 February 2007 then Speaker Reynolds made a comprehensive ruling in the House regarding the rights of members to table documents in the House, the duties of officers at the table and the powers of the Speaker. While it is not my intention to infringe on the rights or privileges of members of the House, I will intervene if the standing orders or rulings of the chair have been transgressed.

On 11 February 2014 Speaker Simpson ruled that documents sought to be tabled should not contain unparliamentary language that would not be permitted in a debate. In that instance Speaker Simpson gave the member who was seeking to table documents the opportunity to redact the

unparliamentary language. Accordingly, I am returning the documents to the member for Kawana, who has until the House rises tonight to return the documents appropriately redacted to the Clerk for tabling. Once returned to the Clerk, they will be tabled and available for release.

Honourable members, consequent to the member for Kawana's matter of public interest I have been made aware of disruption in the chamber. The audio of the incident has been reviewed. My conclusions from that review are that the member for Maryborough was grossly disorderly and misconducted himself in the chamber. The member for Buderim was interjecting in a provocative and disorderly fashion and, ultimately, disrespected the authority of the chair. I expect both members to rise to withdraw and apologise to the House for their conduct.

Mr MICKELBERG: Mr Speaker, I withdraw and I unreservedly apologise for my conduct.

Mr SAUNDERS: Mr Speaker, I withdraw and unreservedly apologise for my conduct in the House.

Mr SPEAKER: I now consider this matter closed under standing order 269(4).

HEALTH LEGISLATION (SCOPE OF PRACTICE) AMENDMENT REGULATION

Disallowance of Statutory Instrument



Ms BATES (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (5.32 pm): I move—

That Part 3 of the Health Legislation (Scope of Practice) Amendment Regulation 2018, Subordinate Legislation No. 174 of 2018, be disallowed.

Today is the last chance for the Lady Cilento name to continue to be enshrined in legislation, which is why all members of the House should support this disallowance motion. There is no greater example of how Labor's priorities are all wrong than wasting taxpayers' money to rip Lady Cilento's name off our main children's hospital. Our public health system has lurched from one crisis to another under the Palaszczuk Labor government and sick and injured Queenslanders are paying the price. Hospitals across Queensland are literally bursting at the seams. Promised hospital upgrades are years away from completion and maternity services have been cut in regional Queensland. Our hardworking nurses, doctors, midwives and paramedics need more help on the front line to improve patient care.

Patient care should always be a priority, but what we saw last year with the disgraceful renaming of the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital was a government that has its priorities all wrong. One would think the priority of every government would be ensuring our sickest kids have enough beds and the health services they need, not wasting taxpayers' money ripping names off hospitals. However, under Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk and her incompetent health minister, Steven Miles, that was not the case. Images of a child receiving treatment in a kitchenette because of a shortage of beds should have been enough for the Premier to show some leadership and reverse the name change. The desperate pleas from parents whose kids need treatment at the hospital and concerns around oncology bed shortages should have been enough for the Premier to show some leadership and reverse the name change. Revelations about a rigged poll used to justify the name change where it was shown that 17,719 yes votes came from 74 IP addresses and 6,269 of these votes were sourced from just four IP addresses should have been enough for the Premier to show leadership and reverse the name change. The rigged poll I might add is still being assessed by the Crime and Corruption Commission.

What did this Premier do? She went to lunch and dismissed the issue. She should have seen the issue for what it was and reversed the bad judgement call like we saw with the proposed renaming of a grandstand after a former Labor politician. Instead of wasting hundreds of thousands of taxpayers' dollars to change the name of Lady Cilento Children's Hospital, Labor should fix the health crisis by ending constant code yellows where our hospitals are in bed block; stop ambulance ramping that is increasing again under Labor; scrap Labor's controversial rapid off-load policy that the United Voice has said is putting patients' lives at risk; and restore funding to front-line services, not waste taxpayers' money renaming hospitals.

If the decision to waste taxpayers' money and rename the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital was not bad enough, the way the Cilento family has been treated by Labor has been nothing short of an absolute disgrace. The minister would not meet with the family before the decision was made and when he did meet with them he admitted that there had been a smear campaign by some doctors against Lady Phyllis Cilento. As reported on 23 November last year, the health minister, Steven Miles, said on camera five times that he never agreed with the Cilento family that there had been a smear campaign from some doctors against their mother and grandmother, Lady Phyllis Cilento. The only problem for

the minister is that the Cilento family had a recording of him saying, 'I think some of the doctors in that campaign tried to do that.' Rather than admit that he had been caught out, both he and the Premier said they did not accept he had lied when denying the exchange. The Cilento family were not so generous. The minister was dragged kicking and screaming to actually meet with the Cilentos and basically did so after extreme pressure. The Premier has never even bothered to meet with the family and explain her government's decision.

Lady Phyllis Cilento was a pioneering female Queensland doctor. She is someone who should be celebrated, not denigrated. The son of the late Lady Phyllis Cilento, medical pioneer and author Dr David Cilento, said he was devastated by the decision to remove his mother's name from the exterior of the leading paediatric hospital. Dr David Cilento said the change was absolutely destroying his mother's legacy. Labor's health minister offered the Cilento family to name an auditorium or an art prize after her—a consolation prize the family described as deeply insulting. Lady Cilento's granddaughter Giovanna Volpe-Cilento said—

What they offered us was a sewing kit or something, or that we could have an art award, or we could name the auditorium after her.

The only time buildings get renamed is when someone is a criminal.

Our grandmother was not a criminal, she was someone who loved Queensland and Queenslanders, and who loved children, and served them for a very long time.

As I said earlier, the poll was a sham and completely unreliable. Dozens of yes votes in an online opinion poll used by the Queensland government to justify a decision to rename the state's main children's hospital may have emanated from ministerial offices, including that of the state health minister, Steven Miles, but Labor will not release the full IP addresses to prove otherwise. It is clear the survey was rigged, it has been corrupted by a few individuals and, overwhelmingly, the community was against the decision to rename, but Labor used this rigged poll to justify the change. Under questioning from the media, the health minister admitted ministerial staff probably did vote in the poll. He said it was probably true that the 75 yes votes had come from ministerial offices, his office among them.

Lady Cilento was a pioneering medical professional and advocate for health issues concerning women and children. She was ahead of her time in advocating natural childbirth, contraception, good nutrition and raising children with the benefit of vitamins. In 1974 she was declared Queensland's Mother of the Year. In 1977 her name was used for an award bestowed by the Nutritional Foods Association of Australia. In 1979 she became a Fellow of the International Academy of Preventive Medicine. In 1980 she was awarded life membership of the Australian Medical Association. In 1981 she was named Queenslander of the Year. In 1982 she was named Loyal Australian of the Year by the Assembly of Captive European Nations. In 1987 she was named Queensland Senior Citizen of the Year and awarded a medal of merit by the Australian chapter of the Legion of Frontiersmen of the Commonwealth. In 2013 the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital in Brisbane was named in her honour.

Lady Phyllis Cilento settled in Brisbane in 1928. She became renowned throughout the city as a general practitioner with a dedicated passion for obstetrics and women's and children's health. Her husband, Sir Raphael Cilento, was also a doctor. The couple had six children, the youngest of whom was the late actor Diane Cilento, who was married to Sean Connery from 1962 to 1973. Her legacy should be remembered and celebrated, not tarnished by the political decisions of this government.


The excuse used to change the name related to the need for international recognition and additional fundraising support from the foundation. In relation to the assertion that he supported the name change, the chair of the hospital foundation later rejected the claim. Labor claimed the name change would help the hospital with fundraising, but millionaire benefactors have pulled their support over the Lady Cilento name change so it has had the reverse impact. Judith and Trevor St Baker, who have donated hundreds of thousands of dollars to the hospital, have refused to provide more funding because of the name change decision. 'We told the board they should never contact us again,' Mrs St Baker said. 'I'm sympathetic to the cause, but to go ahead with removing the name of an outstanding Queenslander is insulting. It's unnecessary, ridiculous and a waste of money. We object to it and will find other ways to help sick kids and invest our philanthropic money.'

Nobel Laureate Peter Doherty has disputed a claim by the Queensland Premier that the state's name in itself could land rich research grants for medical staff agitating to rebrand Brisbane's main children's hospital. 'The Premier may have had feedback from researchers, but I would have thought that any effect would be minimal,' said Professor Doherty, a joint winner of the 1996 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine.

Organisations that represent nurses have claimed their members do not support the name change. The Nurses Professional Association of Queensland said it decided to register the name following backlash from members over the name change. NPAQ assistant secretary Jack McGuire said that registering the name meant it could not be hijacked and 'should the Minister decide to reuse the name, we will provide it back free of charge.' More than 85 per cent of the NPAQ members polled wanted the hospital's name to remain unchanged.

Queenslanders want a government that is focused on providing better health services and ensuring that our hardworking nurses, doctors, midwives and paramedics have the support and resources they need to improve patient care. Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk promised better local health services at the last state election, yet things have gone backwards. What Queenslanders did not vote for was hundreds and thousands of taxpayers' dollars to be wasted to change the name of a hospital rather than providing better health services for our sickest children.

Anyone who does not support this motion tonight should stand condemned for their actions. We will remind communities right up until the next state election so Queenslanders know that, when it comes to health, the priority of Queensland Labor is all wrong.

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (5.44 pm): I obviously rise to speak against the motion moved by the member for Mudgeeraba. I note that in her closing comments she referred to the need to save taxpayers' dollars to not change the name of the Queensland Children's Hospital, yet this motion is exactly about spending more money to change it back to the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital, so on a point of logic it does not stand. The name has changed and the member for Mudgeeraba should understand that.

For the benefit of the House let me address the very real issue and the very real benefit of having a stand-alone Queensland children's hospital for this state. The member for Mudgeeraba went through a lot of detail about Lady Cilento, and let me put on record my thanks to her and her family for the great service she offered to families in Queensland. When the member for Mudgeeraba talked about naming the first and only consolidated tertiary paediatric hospital in her honour, there were families and doctors who were deeply disappointed by the captain's call of Campbell Newman. He did this without one single word of consultation with families, patients or the people of Queensland. Let me tell you something from a very personal perspective.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Members to my left, we have just heard a speech given by a member from your side and it was listened to respectfully. I ask the same for the member for South Brisbane. I do not believe the member is being provocative.

Ms TRAD: I remember a time in Queensland when we did not have a stand-alone consolidated tertiary paediatric hospital. The sickest children in this state were farmed out to different hospitals within the South-East Queensland corner to get the level of services that they needed in order to stay alive. Unfortunately, my niece, Miriam, did not make it. She would have benefitted enormously if this hospital had been in existence when she was fighting for her tiny life. It has made the most enormous difference to the lives of families with some of the sickest children in this state.

It was always the expectation that this hospital would be Queensland's children's hospital, that this hospital would be the hospital for Queensland's children, and I am enormously proud that it has taken the Palaszczuk Labor government and this health minister, the member for Murrumbidgee, to change the name back at the request of patients, parents and doctors. As the member for South Brisbane, where this hospital is located, let me say unequivocally that I have yet to meet one health professional who works at that hospital, one single researcher or one single parent of a child who frequents that hospital who has said that they disagree with the name change. On this side of the House we listened to doctors and we listened to health professionals. We listened to the doctors who signed the petition, who came to see the government and asked for the name change, because it does make a difference. It makes a difference in terms of understanding who this hospital is for.

I go back to my original point: this hospital belongs to Queensland children. It does not belong in honour of someone whom the former premier decided to choose without a single conversation with any health professional or any parent whose child frequents the hospital.

The member for Mudgeeraba talked about investment in front-line health services. The member for Mudgeeraba should hang her head in shame. Those opposite sacked so many health professionals—nurses, allied health professionals. Those opposite have the gall to come into this House and suggest that this government should be doing a different job when it comes to health. Compared to their record, it is just laughable.

We are spending record amounts on health in this state. We are opening 36 more beds at the Queensland Children's Hospital. We have introduced important positions—

Ms Grace interjected.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for McConnel and Leader of the Opposition, you will not quarrel across the chamber. Mr Speaker has made those determinations. If it continues, you will be named.

Ms TRAD: We have made a record investment in health. I repeat: we are making the first major expansion of the Queensland Children's Hospital because more and more children need the assistance of this consolidated tertiary paediatric hospital.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Ms TRAD: Mr Deputy Speaker, you asked the member for Nanango to stop quarrelling across the chamber. I suspect that she is ignoring your ruling.

Mrs Frecklington: Sorry, was I not paying attention to you, Treasurer?

Ms TRAD: No. I know that those opposite do not like us reviewing decisions made by the Newman government. After all, the member for Nanango is very proud of their record in government. She is very proud to have served in this place with the former member for Buderim, Steve Dickson. She is very proud to be continuing an association with the member for Whitsunday—still on 'team LNP'.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for South Brisbane, can you come back to the motion being debated, please. Member for Nanango, I do not need your support.

Ms TRAD: I know that those opposite do not like it when we start rectifying the mistakes of the Newman LNP government because they are very proud of their track record of sacking health workers, fighting with doctors and not consulting, whether it be on the name of a hospital—the name was already settled by every single member of the public who had anything to do with this issue—or on a range of other issues. Those opposite are so proud of their record in government.

We are proud of our investment in the Queensland health sector. We are very proud that we have restored front-line services. It took a Labor government to deliver the Queensland Children's Hospital for the benefit of Queensland children and not for the benefit of those opposite. We are very proud to have restored its name as the Queensland Children's Hospital. I completely and utterly oppose this disallowance motion, which would see more chaos and more money spent on changing the name back after we had already changed it.

Mr Bleijie: This is why we are preferencing the Greens in South Brisbane!

Ms TRAD: I take that interjection from the member for Kawana. I have been waiting for his zinger. I think the member for Burdekin is very happy, after his intervention in mining, for the member for Kawana to make that statement of the LNP to be preferencing the Greens in South Brisbane.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for South Brisbane, I bring you back to the motion.


Ms TRAD: I am taking the interjection, Mr Deputy Speaker, as I understand I am allowed to.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for South Brisbane, there was no interjection from the member for Burdekin.

Ms TRAD: Kawana.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I know it was from the member for Kawana, but it certainly was not from the member for Burdekin. I ask you to come back to the motion, please.

Ms TRAD: I am very proud that we are making this move to restore the name of the Queensland Children's Hospital. The member for Oodgeroo can sit there and point his finger at me. We know where he stands on the health of women in this state: back in the 19th century. We urge all members of the House to vote against this disallowance motion.

 **Mr McARDLE** (Caloundra—LNP) (5.55 pm): I rise to speak in support of the motion before the House. I am stunned that the Deputy Premier believes that because the name has now been changed we should simply ignore the matter. We on this side of the House will fight for this woman—her reputation and her hard work in this state—every day up to and including the election campaign. The Deputy Premier was the first ALP member to stand in this House and say anything positive about Phyllis Dorothy Cilento. The Premier, the Deputy Premier, the Leader of the House and the Minister for Women are all women. This government acclaims the stand it takes with regard to women, yet until tonight not one of its members made any comment that acknowledged Lady Cilento and the work she did. Can you believe it? The words were perfunctory. They were no sooner out of her mouth than, in essence, she was condemning Lady Cilento by consigning her name to the scrap heap.

It is important that we understand who this woman was and what she stood for in regard to Queensland children and mothers. She was 93 years of age when she passed away. She devoted her life in medicine to the care of children, to nutrition, to writing books and to assisting mothers and sick children. The member for Mudgeeraba outlined some of her history. She was a specialist lecturer in mothercraft at UQ. She wrote 24 books and monographs. In 1929 she became the inaugural president of the Queensland Medical Women's Society. In 1931 she founded the Mothercraft Association of Queensland and was president of that body until 1946. In 1974 she was the first Queensland mother of the year. In 1977 she was made a fellow of the International Academy of Preventative Medicine. In 1980 she was made a life member of the AMA.

These are some of the achievements of Lady Cilento over a life spanning 93 years. That life had one meaning: how could she as a medical practitioner help the sick children and mothers of this state? She never wavered in what she believed she was doing for the betterment of those children and mothers. Yes, there were detractors, but she was a woman ahead of her time. She was a woman who had foresight and vision. She spent years studying technique, increasing her knowledge and, more importantly, being there when sick children and mothers needed her.

This morning in this House we debated a bill and concluded that we were going to support teachers who were gifted teachers. Doesn't this woman deserve the same treatment? With what she has given this state in terms of heritage and knowledge for the future, doesn't Lady Phyllis Cilento deserve to be acclaimed in a manner such as having named after her a hospital that deals with children, paediatrics and mothers?

That is what the LNP did when we opened this hospital. We sought the name of a person who would be synonymous with children, with assisting children and, more importantly, would be acclaimed for her great heritage and knowledge right across this nation. That is what we did, and we will do it again if the situation arises because this woman deserves—

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order! One moment please. Member for Nanango, I made it very clear in my warning to you. No, do not be pointing at someone else. I made it very clear, so you are now warned under the standing orders.

Mr McARDLE: As I said, the LNP will always stand up for the heroes of this state, and this woman is and will be a hero for years to come. Her reputation precedes her and will do so for decades. The government often derides the LNP in relation to how it sees our status with regard to women. Its rhetoric here does not support its actions. What happened here is that we put up the name of a woman who is truly cognisant of the care for children and those opposite tear it down. They determine to tear down her reputation and remove her from the wall and building that should be rightly named the 'Lady Cilento Children's Hospital'.

We know the government has tried desperately to spin this poll as some sort of basis to change the name. We know now that that poll is under serious question. It is a rig, it is a sham and it was put together to get the outcome that the government wanted. It is now with the CCC and I hope that comes back as a report in the very near future, but that is the level that this government will go to to get its own outcome. It also claims that the name was not known to either raise funding for the foundation or to obtain grants. What a load of rubbish! Hospitals get known over time. The hospital name would simply create, by its own existence, an ethos around it that would attract funding and would also attract grants.

Mr Lister interjected.

Mr McARDLE: I take that interjection. It was another red herring by this government desperate to find some way to overturn the name. It comes down to this one point: the only real reason those opposite dumped the name is because the LNP put it on the hospital. We put it on the hospital and they did not want it, and that is a shame on them and the way they conduct themselves.

I would love to hear the Premier, the Leader of the House and the Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women stand tonight and make a contribution, because their names do not appear on the speaking list. They are three of the four senior women in this House on the ALP side and I am still yet to hear a few words, except for a few tiny words by the Deputy Premier literally dragged out of her mouth, acknowledging this woman. It is unbelievable that we have a government where the Premier and Deputy Premier are women but they will not stand up and support this woman. We will hear from the health minister no doubt later tonight in relation to why the name should no longer be in place of Lady Cilento. At the end of the day, it comes down to one thing. It comes down to a sense that if we put it on they will take it off. If we put it on, they will take it off. From my point of view, I will continue to prosecute this matter until the election, and I will continue to let people know that this government has turned its back and destroyed the reputation and have shredded the good name of Lady Cilento.

Ms Grace: Big issue in Caloundra!

Mr McARDLE: I take the interjection from the Minister for Education. She thinks that this is a minor point. She thinks that people across this state are not upset and they do not know Lady Cilento. I say to the minister now: Minister, you are making a major mistake.

Ms GRACE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I am being verbally by the member for Caloundra. I take offence and I ask that he withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Just one moment. I will take counsel from the clerk at the table on that. Member for McConnel, we did not hear anything offensive in there, but we will continue to—

Ms GRACE: On the point of order: Mr Deputy Speaker, I am being verbally by the member for Caloundra. The things that he has said are not one word that I have said in this House.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Ms GRACE: I take offence to what he has said, because I did not say any of the things he said, and I ask that he withdraw. I have taken offence.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Caloundra, the member for McConnel has found what you have said personally offensive. I ask you to withdraw.

Mr McARDLE: I withdraw. I say to the minister: if you want to talk, get up on your hind quarters and say some words. Do not sook it up. Stand up and make your point clear.

Ms PEASE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Caloundra, you are now directly addressing the member for McConnel. You need to address everything you say through the chair please.


Mr McARDLE: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Ms PEASE: I rise to a point of order. I believe that the member was using unparliamentary language in his contribution to the debate.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Caloundra, you have used unparliamentary language. I ask you to withdraw.

Mr McARDLE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I certainly withdraw and take your guidance on the matter. To sum up, at the end of the day it comes down to this: Phyllis Dorothy Cilento, over 93 years, has earned the right to have her name placed on that hospital. She has earned the right to be regarded as one of the top doctors in relation to paediatrics and also mothers. She has earned the right to be acclaimed by this parliament and by any government. She has earned the right for this parliament tonight to vote down this regulation and restore her good name and her integrity.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Members, I take this opportunity to remind all members in the chamber about conduct in general; otherwise, we will go through the procedures of warning people.

 **Mr HARPER (Thuringowa—ALP) (6.08 pm):** I rise to speak against the member for Mudgeeraba's motion. As I said when we tabled the report, it was passed unanimously, but here we are listening to the rants of the LNP. This move by the opposition shows just where its priorities are. It cares more about the name of a hospital than it does about delivering or helping deliver the best possible health outcomes for Queenslanders.

Mr Hunt interjected.

Mr HARPER: The member for Mudgeeraba has shown that she is living in the past rather than thinking about how we can deliver health care—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order! One moment, member for Thuringowa. Member for Nicklin, I just finished addressing the chamber and you continued to make interjections, which were not being taken, across the chamber. You are now warned under the standing orders.

Mr HARPER: As I said, the member for Mudgeeraba has shown that she is living in the past. I want to take the point made by the member for Caloundra about standing up for heroes in this state and tackle some comments made by the member for Mudgeeraba about ambulance ramping. With 25 years of experience as a paramedic, I can tell members that the LNP did not stand up for paramedics. The LNP certainly did not stand up for paramedics in regard to ramping—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Thuringowa, I am going to bring you back to the motion that is being debated. I need you to be relevant.

Mr HARPER: As chair of the health committee, I have spent a lot of time speaking to my constituents in the Thuringowa electorate about their views of the health care provided by Queensland Health. Whilst I am on my feet, I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the great work of our nurses, allied health professionals, support staff and paramedics who deliver a high standard of care to the Townsville Hospital and Health Service.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Thuringowa, you need to come back to the motion before us. It is not about health care in general. Can you come back to the motion, please.

Mr HARPER: Certainly, Mr Deputy Speaker. I am proud to be a member of a Labor government that has delivered on funding and restoring nurses and doctors in our HHSs. In the Townsville HHS, we hired an additional—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Thuringowa, I remind you that this motion is about the name change of Lady Cilento, not about Townsville hospital or nurses. I need you to come back to the title of the motion.

Mr HARPER: Certainly, Mr Deputy Speaker. The only people who are talking about the name change for the hospital, previously known as Lady Cilento, are those members opposite. They should spend less time banging on about the name of a hospital and more time reflecting on their dismal record in health. The opposition sucked thousands of front-line healthcare workers from across Queensland. It was the Newman government—

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order in relation to relevance to the matter at hand.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Member for Thuringowa, could you come back to the motion, please.

Mr HARPER: Mr Deputy Speaker, thank you very much. This was a name change that did not cost Queensland Health a cent.

An opposition member interjected.

Mr HARPER: All the funding to change the name came from the department of public works. Not one cent less has been spent on sick Queensland children. This government backs our doctors and nurses—a radical thought for those opposite, I know. When those doctors and nurses from the Queensland Children's Hospital came to us, we listened. Clinicians told us that patients and their families were confused by the name Lady Cilento and thought that it was a private hospital. Doctors at the hospital—

An opposition member interjected.

Mr HARPER: I heard from that people who live in Townsville—

Mr Watts interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Toowoomba North, I have made my concerns about behaviour in the chamber tonight very clear. You have continued to interject. Those interjections have not been taken. You are now warned under the standing orders.

Mr HARPER: I can certainly attest that, in speaking with constituents in my electorate of Thuringowa, they thought that Lady Cilento was a private hospital. Doctors at the hospital told us that patients in regional Queensland in particular did not know that the hospital was a public hospital. We heard heartbreaking stories from doctors about parents who thought that they could not afford the treatment. This meant that there was a very real risk that sick children were not receiving the latest in care because their parents thought that they might have to pay at Lady Cilento. This is a real issue that was raised by people in my electorate. They thought that it was a private hospital.

An opposition member interjected.

Mr HARPER: I am not going to listen to the member. There should not be even the slightest risk of parents thinking that they cannot afford treatment for their children, especially when this hospital was built using taxpayers' money for the people of Queensland. This confusion was hindering our ability to deliver the best possible health outcomes for our patients. When clinical stakeholders met with us, they told us that they had concerns about the name as well and we listened.

An opposition member interjected.

Mr HARPER: I am not listening to you.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order! Member for Thuringowa, you need to direct your comments through the chair. Again, those in the opposition need to direct their comments through the chair.

Mr HARPER: The lack of name recognition among the broader medical community meant that the world-class research being generated by the Children's Hospital was not being attributed correctly. Researchers believed that Queensland patients missed out on opportunities to participate in innovative medical trials—

Ms Bates interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Mudgeeraba, you have had enough warnings tonight. You are now warned under the standing orders.

Mr HARPER: Researchers believed that Queensland patients missed out on opportunities to participate in innovative clinical trials because of the hospital's name. When our researchers went overseas, they told us how the international medical community struggled to understand that the hospital is a public hospital and that their research was being done in Queensland. There was a real risk that they would miss out on clinical trials and additional research funding, which is so important when we are talking about patient care outcomes. Evidence based research is very important. That is something the members opposite do not understand.

Mr Hart interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Burleigh, you are now warned under the standing orders.

Mr HARPER: Staff at the hospital—doctors, nurses and researchers—signed a petition calling on the government to change the name. Nine hundred people knew the impact that the hospital's name was having on service delivery and called on us—a Labor government—to remedy this problem and we listened to them. The decision to change the name was driven by this government's commitment to delivering the best quality health care we can to all Queenslanders. I congratulate the minister on tackling this difficult issue. He listened to the medical staff. They wanted the name changed. We know that there was going to be—

An opposition member interjected.

Mr HARPER: I take that interjection. I can assure the member that, under the LNP, under Newman, ramping was at its worst.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Thuringowa, will you come back to the motion, please.

Mr HARPER: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I was taking his interjection.

Mr Purdie interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Ninderry, you are not in your designated seat. You are now warned under the standing orders.

Mr HARPER: They need to learn some rules—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Thuringowa!


Mr HARPER: Those opposite carry on about the lack of consultation even though we listened to the views of the staff, went to the community, arranged briefings with MPs and commissioned research into the matter. When the LNP changed the name from the Queensland Children's Hospital to Lady Cilento, there was zero consultation. The members opposite just went ahead and did it. You did not talk to anyone. You did not talk to the doctors, nurses, community members—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Thuringowa, will you speak through the chair. If you cannot, I will ask you to sit down.

Mr HARPER: Thank you very much, Mr Deputy Speaker.

An opposition member interjected.

Mr HARPER: The member is counting. I thank him very much. The members opposite did not listen to anyone—not when it came to this and not when they sacked our front-line workers. Now they are again ignoring Queensland's front-line workers.

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (6.18 pm): I am sorry, but the member for Thuringowa is simply wrong. He started by suggesting that it was this side of the chamber that had its priorities all wrong. It is not. It is the Labor Party that decided that changing the name of the Children's Hospital is more important than providing the services in that hospital and other hospitals across this state. Labor and Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk's priorities are simply wrong.

Although the examples are many, there is no more disastrous example than what we are seeing in the health system at the moment—a health system in crisis, a health system where Labor's highest and only priority is removing the name of a pioneering woman, Lady Cilento, from the name of the state's primary children's hospital. My colleagues the members for Mudgeeraba and Caloundra have outlined the extraordinary legacy of Lady Phyllis Cilento and why her name is fitting for our Children's Hospital and how removing it is so very offensive.

Let me give a couple of examples of where the \$500,000 that it has cost this government to change the name could have been put to better use. A 60-year-old female constituent contacted my office who had, at the time this name change was occurring, suffered a brain aneurysm initially treated at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital. She did have ongoing monitoring but unfortunately it was discovered she had a second one. At the time this name change was occurring, when the priorities of this minister—of this government—were focused on changing the name of our Children's Hospital, she was listed as a category 1 patient and told she would have surgery in 30 days. Instead of taking that seriously, we have a government focused on removing Lady Phyllis Cilento's name from the Children's Hospital. One hundred and seventy-five days later that constituent contacted me having had surgery booked, cancelled, booked, cancelled, booked, cancelled.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order! Member for Glass House, I think you are treading a fine line. I ask you to bring it back to the motion being debated, not simply shrouding it with the name change and then going down that path.

Mr POWELL: At a time when this government was focusing on stripping the pre-eminent name of Lady Phyllis Cilento from our hospital, at a time when that was its priority—and we have seen the subsequent results of this minister taking his eye off the ball in the health system—we have patients like that constituent of mine waiting 175 days for surgery. Thankfully she did contact my office. Thankfully that surgery was booked within a week and she is at home recovering now. But would it not be far better for the people of Queensland, for the patients of Queensland, to know that they have a health system that will take them seriously, that they have a health minister who will take them seriously, rather than worrying about the name of a hospital, a name that was given on the back of incredible philanthropic and medical service to this great state?

I have had other constituents: a gentleman from Woodford, a category 2 patient, who had to wait 22 months to see a neurologist; a grandmother who tried to get her—

Mr HARPER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. The member is drifting off.


Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Glass House, I will ask you to come back to the debate.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. In the contribution led by the Deputy Premier this evening on behalf of the government, the Deputy Premier gave personal examples of the hospital, both under the old name and the new name, and the member for Glass House is simply doing the same.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, you have no point of order. I ask the member for Glass House to continue.

Mr POWELL: Again I say that this government has its priorities all wrong. When it comes to the health system it wants to rip a name off a hospital instead of providing services. It has cost Queensland taxpayers \$500,000 that could have paid for a set of new teeth for a 19-year-old from Glass House Mountains. That \$500,000 could have fixed the video conferencing in Rockhampton Hospital so Central West patients do not have to travel down the highway to get their blood test results when they are suffering from cancer. That \$500,000 has simply been wasted because of a political witch-hunt by the member for South Brisbane to remove the name of an amazing woman—let me say it again: an amazing woman—from our Children's Hospital in this state. Those opposite spruik about being about gender equality and raising up women in this state. We in the LNP gave one of the highest recognitions possible

to Lady Phyllis Cilento by naming the Children's Hospital after her. It is clear that those opposite, instead of providing the health services that this state needs, have simply gone to all lengths possible to score a political win by removing that name from the Children's Hospital. It is not acceptable. I will be supporting this motion. All Queenslanders support this motion.

 **Ms LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (6.24 pm): I rise to speak against the disallowance motion and in support of our government's decision to return the name of the Queensland Children's Hospital to the Queensland Children's Hospital. As I have said before in this House in previous debates on this topic, everyone involved with the original election commitment, site announcement, design and construction of this project knows the hospital was always to be known as the Queensland Children's Hospital. Media articles, from the announcement of a new Queensland paediatric hospital in 2006 through to 2013 when the name was changed, referred to it as such. To select just one of many articles, in 2009 when the site of the new paediatric hospital was announced the media release said this—

The government's vision for a new Queensland Children's Hospital goes far beyond providing excellent facilities and services in Brisbane, it also extends to the coordination of wider tertiary paediatric services around the state. The Queensland Children's Hospital will be the hub of a statewide network. Mr Robertson, Labor Health Minister at the time, said a unique agreement between Mater Health Services and Queensland Health secures the new Queensland Children's Hospital. Further, 'The new Queensland Children's Hospital will be governed and managed entirely by Queensland Health.' Mr Robertson said.

The government, the national and state media, the medical profession, the community—everyone—knew and referred to the hospital as the Queensland Children's Hospital. That is until December 2013, when the former Newman LNP government announced the renaming of the hospital without consultation—without consultation with the community stakeholders engaged in the project who were supportive of the hospital's original name, the Queensland Children's Hospital. It has been a cause of concern ever since. On 24 July last year members of the Children's Health Queensland Medical Staff Association met with the minister urging a change of name back to the Queensland Children's Hospital. Three months after that first meeting with the Minister for Health, Steven Miles, the Children's Health Queensland Medical Staff Association presented a petition with almost 900 staff signatures calling for the facility's name to change. They have campaigned to reverse the name ever since the former Newman government suddenly renamed the facility in late 2013. For five years they had campaigned.

Why is a name so important? The Children's Health Queensland Medical Staff Association—doctors, nurses and health professionals employed by the hospital itself—have long been concerned that the name change was not adequately reflecting what the hospital is: our premier public, tertiary, paediatric facility for Queensland. They passionately argued that the hospital was not easily recognisable in the national and international medical research community, forgoing opportunities for collaboration and affiliations in research and learning, further citing that patients and their families were often confused by the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital name. The name not having wide public recognition, families believed it to be a private hospital and that confusion may cause Queenslanders to avoid or delay seeking treatment for a child for fear that they may have to pay for care at the hospital or that they are out of the catchment.

Research commissioned by Queensland Health in July of last year supported these claims by doctors that the name confused patients. On this issue the government and opposition agree: a name is important. What we do not agree on and what appears to have been lost to the member for Mudgeeraba and those opposite is that this is actually about Queensland children and their families—nothing else, not anyone else. This is about Queensland children and families. Those doctors, nurses and medical staff, the hospital foundation, the directors of paediatrics at Cairns, Bundaberg, Townsville, Hervey Bay, Toowoomba, Prince Charles, Logan, Sunshine Coast University, Gold Coast University, Redcliffe, Ipswich and the Children's Hospital and Health Board, who all wrote in support of the name change, who are the ones who called for the change, are the very people saving the lives of Queensland's sickest children. Their views should matter and those views should be afforded significant weight in this discussion, yet their concerns and calls for change have been continuously dismissed by those opposite as they are again being tonight.

I think it is deeply regrettable that this debate ever had to happen, particularly for any unnecessary offence that has been caused to the Cilento family. The opposition has continued to make this issue, an issue of their making, about anything but what and those who it is actually about. Those doctors, nurses and medical staff, the hospital foundation, the directors of paediatrics across Queensland and the Children's Hospital and Health Board, who are the ones who called for the change, are not interested in the politics of this chamber; they are interested in doing their job and saving the lives of Queensland's sickest children.

Those people believe passionately that Queensland's tertiary children's hospital should be known as just that: the Queensland Children's Hospital. I know just how passionately they believe that, because the doctor who presented the petition on behalf of the Queensland Medical Staff Association is a constituent of my electorate and he and his wife, also a paediatric doctor, like countless other doctors, nurses and staff of the Children's Hospital who live in the Nudgee electorate, have continued to raise this issue with me. For us as a government, this is about Queensland children and their families: nothing else, not anyone else. This is about Queensland children and families.

I thank the minister for listening to the Queensland medical community and for acting to return the hospital to its original name. It has been a divisive debate—disappointingly so—but it is also time to move forward. In 2016-17, the Queensland Children's Hospital admitted over 40,000 children and young people as inpatients. It provided 227,919 specialist outpatient appointments—

Mrs Frecklington: Relevance, relevance, relevance.


Ms LINARD:—and attended to 66,760 emergency presentations, one of them my own son. I am providing statistics about the Queensland Children's Hospital and you still do not think that is relevant. You clearly do not get the issue at all.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order! Through the chair.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise on a point of order on relevance, as the Manager of Opposition Business just stood on—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Nanango. There is no point of order.

Ms LINARD: I take this opportunity to thank the staff, nurses, doctors and health professionals who work with great skill and passion at the Queensland Children's Hospital to provide care to Queensland children and families when they are at their most vulnerable. We will always listen and we will always support you.

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (6.31 pm): I rise to support the motion moved by the shadow health minister in the chamber today. Nothing sums up the Palaszczuk government quite like its decision to rename the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital. That decision was spiteful, that decision was arrogant and, as we have heard in this chamber tonight, that decision was politically motivated. We just heard from the member for Nudgee who said that this is about Queensland children and families. A good government would look after Queensland's children and families. It would ensure that its health system is running like clockwork. However, what does the Palaszczuk government spend its time on? What are the priorities of the Palaszczuk government? In the health system, its priority has been to take away the name 'Lady Cilento Children's Hospital'. That shows how out of touch the Palaszczuk Labor government is.

This government tried to tell the people of Queensland that they would be open, accountable and transparent. However, the decision shows us that the Palaszczuk government is anything but open, it is anything but transparent and it is anything but accountable to the people of Queensland. As we have heard in the chamber tonight, it was a politically motivated decision. We very clearly heard that from the Treasurer of the state. We very clearly heard that the local member for South Brisbane, where the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital is located, was the only person who wanted the name changed. That raises the question: if it was so important, why was the name not changed under the previous health minister, the member for Woodridge? Maybe he is in the wrong faction.

We know that any justification that those opposite have tried to give tonight is fabricated and an absolute joke. We know that the online poll was completely fabricated. It was completely rigged.

An opposition member: It's fact.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I take that interjection. We know that public opinion never matters when it comes to the Palaszczuk government's decisions and neither do patients. We know that the government's priorities are all wrong.

The legacy of Lady Cilento should be celebrated, not trashed. Lady Phyllis Cilento was a pioneer in women's health. She was a pioneer in children's health. She broke new ground in maternity care, contraception and nutrition. In 1980 Lady Cilento was granted life membership of the AMA. In 1981 Lady Phyllis Cilento was named Queenslander of the Year. Lady Cilento was admired and respected by everyone, except for those on the Palaszczuk government benches. As we travel the state talking about this arrogant, spiteful decision, that is what upsets people so much. We speak with people who

remember being treated by Lady Cilento. We speak with people whose babies were saved by Lady Phyllis Cilento. We speak with people whose children were saved by that pioneering medical woman. And the Palaszczuk government decides to take the name of Lady Phyllis Cilento off the Children's Hospital.

Those opposite, such as the member for Thuringowa and the member for Nudgee, stand in this place, reading the tea leaves and saying, 'Oh, the LNP changed the name.' The hospital was named 'Lady Cilento Children's Hospital'. That is exactly what it was.

Lady Cilento's name has been dragged through the mud by the Palaszczuk government and Minister Miles. The renaming of our public children's hospital has left the Cilento family heartbroken. Lady Cilento's son, Dr David Cilento, said that he was devastated by the decision. The health minister should put himself in the shoes of the family. Can he imagine how hurtful it has been to see their mother's name so disrespected?

Ms Grace interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I hear the Minister for Education rabbiting on, again disrespecting that amazing pioneer who did so much for children's health, maternity services and nutrition in this state. As we have already heard, it was Lady Cilento's granddaughter who stated that the only time buildings are renamed is when someone is a criminal.

Government members interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I take the interjections from those opposite. Lady Phyllis Cilento was not a criminal. She was a pioneer in health. Where is the sisterhood now? Where is the sisterhood standing up for Lady Phyllis Cilento? They are nowhere to be seen! All we see is the Minister for Education laughing about trashing Lady Phyllis Cilento's good name.

Ms GRACE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Enough is enough. I know the Leader of the Opposition is struggling. My point of order is that what she is suggesting that I am doing or saying—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for McConnel, what is your point of order?

Ms GRACE: I am expressing my point of order—is completely untrue. I take offence and I ask that she withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you take offence that is all you need to do. Member for Nanango, the member for McConnel finds what you have said personally offensive. I ask you to withdraw.


Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I withdraw. We have heard all of the Palaszczuk government's claims about why the Children's Hospital had to have the name 'Lady Cilento' removed from it. They claimed it would put off potential donors. We know that claim is garbage, because we have heard about the St Bakers. Professor Peter Doherty, a Nobel Prize winner, has disputed the claims that the name change will win more research grants for the hospital.

We know that that is rubbish. We know that the Palaszczuk government's public arguments before they came into the House tonight—before we heard the member for South Brisbane admit that it was a political decision. It was obvious that the member for South Brisbane wanted this name change, because it was obvious that the previous health minister did not want the name change. I cannot wait to hear the previous health minister explain the reasons in this House, if this was so pressing, why his priority was not to change the name. I do note that the health system was working slightly better under the previous health minister in that we did not have the crisis every day that we have under the current health minister.

Nothing shows the arrogance of the Palaszczuk government more than the rigged online poll where almost 18,000 votes favoured the change. How many IP addresses did it come from? There were 74. Of those, more than 6,000 came from where? Not 10,000, not 6,000 IP addresses; but just four IP addresses. I wonder where they were in 1 William Street? I wonder which officer had to sit there using taxpayers' money pressing the button for the health minister. Which person wasted their time in the health minister's office pressing the button?

We know that nothing shows the arrogance of the Palaszczuk Labor government more than ripping the Lady Cilento name off the Queensland Children's Hospital. We know that this arrogant health minister was so disrespectful of the Cilento family that it was embarrassing. The minister did not meet with or notify them. The minister just took the call, probably from the Treasurer's office, and said, 'Keep pressing the button, because we are going to change the name and you will do what I say.' There was no respect for the family, no respect for the patients across Queensland and no respect for the doctors

and the nurses who did not want this hospital name changed. It was a politically motivated decision by the Palaszczuk government to change this name. In this House tonight we should support the legacy of Lady Phyllis Cilento.

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (6.42 pm): I do not expect those opposite to listen to our doctors tonight; they did not when they were in government, they refuse to now. They ignored our doctors when they changed the name of the hospital to Lady Cilento with no consultation in the first place. They ignored their pleas to return it to its intended name. They are ignoring our doctors now. They can keep harping on about the name of the hospital like they have for almost 12 months now. They might think that is a good distraction, a good cover for the fact they have no health policies. They have had two elections with no commitments to expand the health system, no commitments to build new hospitals or to increase bed numbers.

Ms Grace: They didn't support the Children's Hospital.

Dr MILES: We can see why they keep coming back to this and I take the member for McConnel's interjection—it is why they did not support building a consolidated children's hospital in the first place.

For the benefit of the House, let me recap what led to the government deciding to return the name of the Queensland Children's Hospital to the Queensland Children's Hospital as it always should have been, a decision taken by the government more than six months ago. The Children's Health Queensland Medical Staff Association came to meet me in July last year to request a change of name back to the Queensland Children's Hospital. The hospital's medical staff association had been campaigning to reverse the name change ever since the former Newman government suddenly renamed the facility the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital in late 2013, even though all plans and signage until that point read 'Queensland Children's Hospital.' Some of them even showed me their original Queensland Children's Hospital uniforms that they kept. They pointed to a letter from the Paediatric Society of Queensland in support of a name change. On 26 July 2018, the Children's Health Queensland Medical Staff Association presented me with a petition with almost 900 staff signatures calling for the facility's name to be changed back to the Queensland Children's Hospital.

The government consulted the hospital board and the Children's Hospital Foundation, with both writing to the government on 27 July. Also in July, Queensland Health commissioned research into the hospital's recognition with the findings supporting claims by doctors that the name confused patients. On 31 August 2018, the directors of paediatrics at Cairns, Bundaberg, Townsville, Hervey Bay, Toowoomba, Prince Charles, Logan, Sunshine Coast University, Gold Coast University hospitals, Redcliffe, Ipswich and the Children's Hospital all wrote in support of a name change. Many people also wrote in with feedback about the name change. Queensland Health held formal briefings for MPs. Subsequently, cabinet met and made a decision.

The return to the original name has rightly recognised the amazing things that happen at the Queensland Children's Hospital. Our state's dedicated hospital and health service for Queensland children now has what it needs to keep delivering its world-class services. Starting with a record budget for the service in 2018-19, \$757 million was invested in the Children's Health Queensland Hospital and Health Service, a \$37 million increase on the previous financial year. This allows it to keep up with the incredible increase in demand. In 2018, Queensland Children's Hospital emergency clinicians treated more than 70,000 children and young people with nearly 500 of them requiring immediate, life-saving care. QCH surgeons performed 5,698 emergency surgeries, an increase of nearly four per cent, and nearly 14,000 elective surgeries. In addition to the record budget, we are also delivering a brand-new ward to help Queensland kids battling cancer.

Mr HART: Point of order Mr Deputy Speaker, on relevance. You have pulled up a number of people on that tonight.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Minister for Health, I ask you to come back to the motion being debated.

Dr MILES: The member for Mudgeeraba made repeated negative claims about our health services to children and I think I should be able to respond to them.

An honourable member interjected.

Dr MILES: You spent your entire speech criticising our health services.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Minister for Health, you will direct your comments through the chair.

Dr MILES: Thanks to this huge investment, the hospital will gain an extra 30 beds, including boosting the specialist oncology service capacity by 25 per cent. It is a testament to our—

Mr HART: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. You just gave the minister a direction; he has completely ignored it.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

Mr HART: On relevance.

Mr POWER: I rise to a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker. He is being directly relevant.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! One moment, Minister. Member for Logan, can you resume your seat? Members, we will not debate this across the chamber. Minister, I ask you to be relevant and to come back to the motion.

Dr MILES: I will, Mr Deputy Speaker. In a debate about the name of the Queensland Children's Hospital, I think it is appropriate that I speak about the work of that hospital. I believe that is relevant to this debate.

The expansion to the oncology service will make the Queensland Children's Hospital the largest specialist paediatric hospital in the country. It will make the QCH even more appealing for specialist medical staff from around the world to come here and work in Brisbane at the hospital named the Queensland Children's Hospital.

Mr MILLAR: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. This is about relevance to the name change of the hospital. He should come back to the motion.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Thank you, member for Gregory. I have actually been listening very intently. I find that the minister is being relevant to the motion being debated.

Dr MILES: The Queensland Children's Hospital continues to go from strength to strength. The Children's Hospital Foundation is on track this year to meet its fundraising targets, with a record Children's Hospital telethon raising over \$12 million and a number of new corporate partners this year adding to that record tally. The foundation will make a record investment this year into the hospital named the Queensland Children's Hospital—

Mr HART: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members, several points were made on both sides of the House with regard to philanthropic donations and the ability to raise money by the name change. I believe that the minister is addressing those concerns in his reply. Therefore, there is no point of order.

Dr MILES: The strength of their fundraising also means that this year will see them make a record investment into paediatric research, exceeding \$10 million for the first time, with a focus on translational research into clinical practice. The foundation has also established Australia's first Centre for Child and Adolescent Brain Cancer Research, led by a Queensland Children's Hospital clinician, supported by the brightest researchers across UQ, QUT and QMIR in a collaboration to improve the survival rates and quality of life of those children who do survive this terrible disease. As a sign of the QCH's leadership in this area, the QCH is the largest clinical site for paediatric brain cancer trials for St Jude's hospital outside the US.

Mr HART: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance once again. This has nothing to do with the motion.

Mr POWER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The continual false points of order when it is strictly relevant to the entire debate are actually disruptive.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Thank you, member for Logan. Take your seat. I have not made a ruling yet. Minister, I believe you are now starting to stray from the motion. I ask you to bring it back to the motion being debated around the name change.

Dr MILES: It does not surprise me that those opposite do not see that the fantastic work the clinicians do at that hospital is incredibly relevant to a discussion about its name and to a discussion about whether we should listen to them. That goes to the heart of this whole debate.

Mr HART: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. You have just given the minister a direction and he has ignored you.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is no point of order.

Dr MILES: I acknowledge that those opposite do not want to hear more about the fantastic work of the Queensland Children's Hospital. While I would love to continue to outline to them the amazing work done by the doctors whom we listened to when they asked us to change the name to the Queensland Children's Hospital, let me conclude with this: I know that the parents of the children who

have been cared for at that hospital are grateful to the staff who helped their kids when they needed it most. I think they would want the government to do whatever those doctors say is best for the hospital and for their patients. On this side of the House, that is precisely what we have done by listening to the doctors and returning the name of the hospital to the Queensland Children's Hospital, as it always should have been. I urge all members of this House to vote against this disallowance motion, which would see the name of the hospital changed yet again for the political interests of those opposite.

Division: Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

AYES, 39:

LNP, 36—Bates, Batt, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyce, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Hart, Hunt, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McArdle, McDonald, Mickelberg, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Sorensen, Stevens, Stuckey, Watts, Weir, Wilson.

PHON, 1—Andrew.

Ind, 2—Bolton, Costigan.

NOES, 47:

ALP, 46—Bailey, Brown, Butcher, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Jones, Kelly, King, Lauga, Linard, Lui, Lynham, Madden, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Miller, Mullen, B. O'Rourke, C. O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Pegg, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Stewart, Trad, Whiting.

KAP, 1—Knuth.

Pair: Boyd, Crandon.

Resolved in the negative.

ADJOURNMENT

Gold Coast, Koalas



Mr CRISAFULLI (Broadwater—LNP) (7.00 pm): I would like to make a contribution on the ongoing issue of koalas particularly on the northern Gold Coast and what we need to do to better protect their habitat and understand the science behind this. It has been nearly three years since the government constituted the Koala Expert Panel and nearly six months since the first day of the Koala Advisory Council, yet we still wait for definitive and decisive action on this topic. I will acknowledge that it is a complex issue, but the myriad excuses of why we should not act must end.

This is an iconic species and it is under real risk. This issue will only be solved with research, a plan and, above all, action. In the area of science, we must look at the diseases that are compromising the koalas, but we must also do a proper analysis about translocation and its effectiveness from a baseline study. In the area of planning, we need better planning protection and we also need conservation corridors and land set aside. The member for Glass House is in the House today, and I can say that he did this effectively. There is one example on the Sunshine Coast which is a great legacy of that.

The rule and the rights of a landholder must always be protected but so too must the species. To balance that, it takes money from the government and a vision. We have to see an end to this ad hoc buying of small parcels. There needs to be a proper, dedicated scientific approach that protects the rule of law, protects someone's investment and protects a species.

How serious is this issue? Reports show that if we do not act within two decades the koala population in the east Coomera area will have halved and it will be unviable within half a century. This is not a legacy we want on our watch. We are aghast when we see stories of habitat destruction for pandas and orangutans across the globe, but this iconic animal on our doorstep is at risk and this needs action immediately.

Glass House Electorate, Schools



Mr POWELL (Glass House—LNP) (7.03 pm): This evening I want to address a couple of the fantastic things happening in the schools around the electorate of Glass House. One of the first things I have done this term is adopt a practice used by my good friend the member for Burnett, and that is to work with the men's sheds around the electorate to build buddy benches for my local schools. The first one was delivered to Mooloolah State School and it was well constructed by the men of the Maleny

Men's Shed. There was also one delivered to Elimbah State School that was constructed by the men of the Wamuran Men's Shed. We have received some feedback from that school and I want to read into the *Hansard* some of the words from the principal, Leisa Woods. She said—

I am happy to tell you that our junior school students were very excited to be receiving a buddy bench for their play area. Following the success of the buddy bench in our senior playground, I have witnessed our younger students accessing the bench to let their peers know that they are feeling lonely and looking for someone to play with. Watching other students go over and check in on them is very heart-warming. We would like to thank Andrew and the Wamuran Men's shed for their generous donation.

I also want to specifically acknowledge Kevin Hansen, Bill Newton, Evan Jones and Neville Parsons from the Wamuran Men's Shed for the construction of the buddy bench, as well as the Wamuran sawmill for contributing the materials. Neville, the treasurer of the Wamuran Men's Shed, said—

The Wamuran Men's Shed is always happy to assist with these sorts of projects, it gives many of the members confidence in themselves and helps rebuild their lives.

We also have a buddy bench on its way to Eudlo State School that is being constructed by the Blackall Range Woodcrafters Guild as we speak.

One of the other fantastic things we have instituted is our parliamentary tours and barbecues that I have been holding with state schools in my electorate. The most recent tour on 11 March was for the composite 5/6 class at Mount Mee State School alongside their teacher, Sarah Summers, and their principal, Pam Carlile. It was super. The kids could not stop gawking at the amazing building, the reading room and the green chamber, and then they hoed into a barbecue, which I cooked myself up on level 7. I will read some of the comments from the kids. Megan said—

My favourite room was the Green Room because it's where you make all of Queensland's important decisions. I wonder what it would be like to stand up and talk, I would be so nervous.

Olivia said—

It is unbelievable how old and original some of the buildings are and how important Parliament really is.

Thank you, Olivia, for that comment. Jessie said—

I still can't believe I got to see the actual Mace in person!

This next one was my personal favourite. Josh said—

Thank you for the yummy barbecue, would never be able to have one that good at home (no offence mum and dad).

Thanks, Josh, mate. I take my barbecuing seriously.

Finally, I want to acknowledge a year 12 student from St Columban's College, Jack McSweeney. Jack is a Woodford local and he has been selected to represent Glass House at the Queensland Youth Parliament. He is a great community kid and he is going to have a fantastic time as my representative here in the Youth Parliament.

Capricornia Correctional Centre



Mr O'ROURKE (Rockhampton—ALP) (7.06 pm): I had the pleasure of representing the Hon. Mark Ryan, Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services, earlier this month at the graduation ceremony of 11 graduate custodial officers who will be employed at the Capricornia Correctional Centre. The officers proudly accepted their oath to keep the community safe through the humane containment and rehabilitation of prisoners.

Community safety is important to me and I thank all officers, including the graduates, for their commitment to boosting the safety and security of the centre and the community. I am incredibly proud of the dedication of our corrective services officers. They are the front line of public safety in the community and critical in reducing offending. It is wonderful to think that our community is safer now and in the future with all of our officers working together to improve the behaviour and attitudes of prisoners in custody.

The \$241 million expansion of the Capricornia Correctional Centre is well under way. Local businesses and their employees have completed nearly 90 per cent of the construction work so far. To date, approximately 215,000 hours have been undertaken on the project, with more than 179,000 hours completed by local workers. The expansion has already had a positive impact on the local community and it is great to see the dollars being reinvested in our community. The project is expected to deliver about 172 jobs during construction. The total value of the works already tendered is approximately

\$138 million, with \$61 million of that allocated to local industry. This is a significant boost to the region, with about 44 per cent of the value of the work going to local contractors. I am also pleased to hear that the foundations have been poured and the blockwork has commenced on some of the buildings.

The opportunities will continue once the project is completed, with more than 130 new full-time custodial officers to be employed locally. There will also be the flow-on opportunities for local businesses to help with keeping the centre running by providing necessary services. The expansion is a jobs winner for Central Queensland.

South Pine Road, Traffic Accidents



Mr MANDER (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (7.09 pm): I rise in the House to speak on an issue which I wish I did not have to speak about. A couple of months ago I mentioned a dangerous strip of road in my electorate on South Pine Road. I am sure you know of this section yourself, Mr Deputy Speaker, being an Everton Park local many, many years ago. It is a strip that goes down past Halle Street, past the Puma Hanos garage and it is causing incredible distress for the people who live in that area.

I mentioned last time I raised this issue that in a period of a few days five accidents had taken place. I also talked about the fact that Mrs Patricia Bourke who lives there has had to reinforce her fence at a cost of \$15,000 to give her some reassurance that the cars that continually career into her fence will not cause damage or injury to her or her property. After I mentioned this the minister came and spoke to me. He said he would do something about this because something had to happen. However, I am really concerned that nothing has happened. I have very panicked residents at the moment and the reason they are panicking is because it is raining. Every time it rains there are accidents in which cars spin out of control.

Ironically, on five occasions from 15 to 28 March the 'slippery when wet' sign was knocked over by cars that lost control. Last week we had more wet weather and in a period of 49 hours there were five accidents. I want to table these photos which show a car full of family members careering into this fence once again.

Tabled paper: Bundle of photographs, undated, depicting a car accident on 20 April [655].

There is another one in which a car slipped off the road, went across the median strip and ended up on the other side of the road.

Tabled paper: Photograph, undated, depicting a car accident on 21 April [656].

I table this as well, which shows another car that has careered and caused damage because of the wet weather.

Tabled paper: Bundle of photographs, undated, depicting a car accident on 21 April [657].

The minister has written to say that the department has told him that most of these incidents are due to driver error. However, that is not what the first responders are saying. That is not what the police, the fire brigade or the ambulance are saying. I am pleading with the minister to do something urgently because the longer this situation goes on, the more chance there is of an incredibly serious accident occurring. When it rains, people slide off the road because there is something wrong with the camber of the road, and 'slippery when wet' signs just do not cut it.

Gladstone Harbour Festival; Brisbane to Gladstone Yacht Race



Mr BUTCHER (Gladstone—ALP) (7.12 pm): Tonight I rise to share my excitement with the House about Easter in the Gladstone region. The Gladstone Harbour Festival is a hugely popular free event run from Wednesday through to Easter Sunday. It includes rides, entertainment, sideshow alley, market stalls and delicious food from the Gladstone region. The fun does not stop there; there were car shows, art shows, orchid shows, stamp fairs and also fun runs. I had the pleasure of getting up at six o'clock on Good Friday to shoot the start gun for that run. There was truly something in the electorate for everyone to do. It is estimated that over the five days of the Gladstone Harbour Festival this year there were record crowds in excess of 55,000.

Easter weekend in Gladstone also marks the arrival of the Brisbane to Gladstone Yacht Race and the competitors that come with it. Now in its 71st year, the Brisbane to Gladstone Yacht Race is a premier event on the Queensland yacht-racing calendar. The fleet this year of 51 yachts comprising competitors in two race events left the Shorncliffe pier in Moreton Bay on Good Friday morning. This


year *Black Jack* came within minutes of breaking its own record, arriving in the early hours of Saturday morning. *Black Jack* took out the line honours in the mono hull event and also won the Four Cities Cup, which is awarded to the overall winner of the Sydney to Hobart and Brisbane to Gladstone yacht races. In the multi hull event *Beau Geste*, the fastest yacht in the Southern Hemisphere, broke the record and was the first to arrive into the Gladstone Marina.

Mr Hinchliffe: I fired the gun for the start of it.

Mr BUTCHER: I was there at the finish; I take that interjection. This year's festivities also saw the inaugural B2G Village, a return to the good old days when we used to welcome the yachts, celebrating until the early hours of the morning. The village started with a decadent yachtsman's luncheon, then there was a seafood festival on the Saturday and the final event, the line-crossing party, which was very well attended. Thousands streamed through the gates of the village over the three days of the event and took in the live music, incredible local seafood, cold brews and stunning outlook sitting right on the wonderful Gladstone Harbour.

I would like to take the time remaining to acknowledge the mayor from Gladstone, Matt Burnett, and his councillors for their belief and commitment to the Brisbane to Gladstone Yacht Race and the Gladstone Harbour Festival. It truly is a wonderful community event. There is nowhere better to be in Queensland than in Gladstone at Easter. I look forward to welcoming all members of this House. At some stage during their term in this parliament they should ensure they make their way to Gladstone, particularly over that Easter weekend, and celebrate in the Brisbane to Gladstone village for the 72nd Brisbane to Gladstone Yacht Race which will be held next year on the waterfront in the wonderful Gladstone Harbour.

Amway China Leadership Seminar

 **Mr HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (7.15 pm): I would like to begin by acknowledging and thanking the member for Traeger. More than 6,000 staff from Amway China travelled recently to Cairns as part of a month-long initiative which saw Cairns and the region benefit significantly. The delegates, all high achievers for Amway in China and having reached their business goals for 2018, were being rewarded with a once-in-a-lifetime trip to the beautiful city of Cairns for the Amway China Leadership Seminar. We felt very proud to have been chosen as a destination to host this. I could say it was a very well contested field. As honourable members know, Cairns is acknowledged as the gateway to the Great Barrier Reef and also the gateway to the World Heritage listed rainforest. In addition to this, the delegates will get to experience the unique ancient Indigenous cultures of our region. Where else can people snorkel with colourful fish through coral gardens, travel by cable car over the rainforest canopy for a bird's-eye view of a beautiful waterfall and get close to native animals?

Ms Richards: Nowhere else but Cairns!

Mr HEALY: That is right; only Cairns. All of these unique experiences are managed by tour operators who are taking the lead with sustainable tourism operating practices and initiating groundbreaking projects to sustain and enhance the experience of visiting these beautiful World Heritage listed areas. Our tourism operators were also keen to share their knowledge about the environment and show new initiatives such as the master reef guides which are providing a benchmark for training local guides to better understand and interpret the Great Barrier Reef.

Cairns has had a long and prosperous relationship with China built over many years through travel, trade and tourism. More than 201,000 visitors arrive in Cairns from China each year. This is the sixth time the Amway Leadership Seminar has been held in Australia but the first time Amway China has come to Queensland, where it is tipped to pump \$40 million into the local economy. The Amway seminar is a direct result of tourism minister Kate Jones's trade mission to China in 2017 where she met with Amway officials about the company's incentive program for top salespeople and secured the seminar through partnership with Tourism and Events Queensland, Tourism Australia, Tourism Tropical North Queensland and Cairns Airport. Delegates came here to learn and build their professional network but also enjoy our unique tourism experiences.

Business events are vital to Queensland's economy. That is why we have worked hard to secure new business events for Queensland and we will continue to focus on growing this sector further to secure more longer term benefits. Tourism supports 25,000 jobs in my electorate and pumps \$2.8 million into the Cairns economy each year. This event was great news for our local tourism industry and underlines our commitment to growing visitor numbers to Cairns and to jobs in the region.

Beaudesert, Police Station



Mr KRAUSE (Scenic Rim—LNP) (7.18 pm): The Labor government needs to get on with building a new police station in Beaudesert. This project, something for which I have fought ever since I was elected, started its planning process under the LNP in 2014 and was put in the Queensland budget in 2017. There is no doubt this project needs to happen. Police have lobbied for it for years. In 2004 Beaudesert was awarded the dubious award of ‘dump of the month’ by the Queensland Police Union. The present station was built in about 1980 when Beaudesert had four or five officers; now its allocation is over 20. The station is simply not fit for purpose. The cramped and inadequate facilities contribute to low morale amongst local police. One officer has confided in me that these working conditions have contributed to his decision to seek an alternative career outside the police.

I again call on the Minister for Police to guarantee that this station will be built and to get on with it. I table a *Beaudesert Times* article from March 2018 as well as other media showing how I have fought for this upgrade.

Tabled paper: Bundle of media articles, various dates, regarding a police station for Beaudesert [658].

Despite the sanctimonious comments made by the police minister, Mark Ryan, no work has commenced. When I raised concerns about the government delivering this police station he had the gall to accuse me of peddling fake news. The only fake news being peddled comes from this Labor government. When it comes to police the budget is down, crime is up, and police numbers have been stagnating. It is not good enough for the people of my community, just like the never-ending delays in delivering the Rathdowney Fire Station.

What is worse than dithering on a new police station is that it was caused in part by the government’s refusal in 2016 to include the courthouse in plans for an upgrade of the precinct where both it and the police station sit. I table a copy of draft plans developed by the Department of Housing and Public Works in 2018 to upgrade both the courthouse and the police station—a sensible solution and one that I suggested to the minister, Bill Byrne, well over two years prior in 2016.

Tabled paper: Drawing, dated 10 September 2018, depicting plans for a Beaudesert Police Station and courthouse redevelopment [659].

Apparently, the Attorney-General’s Department was not interested in 2016. Typically, the Labor government only recognises a good idea when it is their idea, so it took until 2018 for this proposal to be looked at. That slowed down the whole process. If they had done this in 2016 perhaps we would not be where we are now. There is no work underway on the police station or the courthouse. The only thing that has eventuated as a result of this better-late-than-never look by Labor is more and more delays. I am told that at the moment the Department of Justice and Attorney-General and has gone cold on the idea again, so we will have yet more and more delays. The government needs to get on with the job of fixing the Beaudesert Police Station for the future.

Hamouda, Mr H



Mr PEGG (Stretton—ALP) (7.21 pm): I have previously spoken in this House about a local man in my electorate from Kuraby, Hazem Hamouda, who had been arbitrarily detained in Egypt. I spoke about this issue last month, and three weeks ago I updated the House with the good news that Hazem was coming back home to my local area and to his family. I want to give the House a further update: not only is Hazem Hamouda home, but he is in the gallery here this evening.

Honourable members: Hear, hear!


Mr PEGG: Hazem is here with his wife, Evelyn, his son, Harun, and his daughters, Lamisse, Saja and Amira. Of course it goes without saying that your family is so happy to see you home, Hazem, and back here in Brisbane after the long ordeal that you have been through. I want to also acknowledge some other family members who are not present here this evening: Hazem’s daughter Jasmine, his son Kareem and Hazem’s mother Zeinab. I have been speaking to family members about this issue for such a long time, and I know how happy they are to have you home, Hazem. It is fantastic to see a local family in my community reunited once again.

I always say that my local community is a great place to be, but I think that Hazem in particular would say that it is a great place to be after being removed from our community for such a long time. As Hazem’s daughter, Lamisse, set out in an article that she put together earlier this month, on 25 January last year Hazem landed in Cairo for a family holiday. Lamisse was already living in Cairo. She was about to undertake studies, and her younger sister and brother had come to visit a few weeks prior to Hazem’s arrival. On a whim Hazem decided to visit his children, which is understandable. There

was also a language barrier, with Hazem speaking Arabic and his daughters and son not speaking Arabic. From there they had an horrific ordeal where Hazem was arbitrarily detained for over 400 days in prison in Cairo.

It is fantastic to see that this issue has finally been resolved. As we know, not all matters raised in this House have a happy ending and a favourable outcome. It is fantastic to see that happen in this case. I say to the Hamouda family, 'Well done on being back together again.' I say to Hazem that it is fantastic to see you, particularly here in the parliament. I look forward to speaking with you and hearing all about what you have been up to since you have returned.

Ethanol


 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (7.24 pm): The rollout of the four per cent ethanol mandate has been very disappointing because at this stage the most recent figures are 1.73 per cent and it should be at four per cent. This requires the government to make strong moves and crack down on fuel companies to stop practices like fuel gouging and price gouging consumers. Fuel companies play around with the market and deliberately market E10 to make it look like it is an inferior product so that people are turned away from it. It needs to be pushed by government.

In the United States, 98 per cent of all unleaded petrol sold contains 10 per cent ethanol. There are 64 countries in the world that mandate it and enforce it, but it is not enough to mandate it without enforcement. We had the LNP campaigning federally in Ingham the other day saying that they are going to build an NQBE plant. Nothing is stimulated unless there is strong force from the government and investors know that there is a strong government that is going to push a mandate and force the fuel companies to take it on board.

People ask me, 'What do you do about climate change? What action can you take?' I say that I would push an ethanol mandate, because 10 per cent ethanol in your fuel can reduce your tailpipe emissions by up to 30 per cent. It is more likely around 20 to 26 per cent, but close to 30 per cent. If we did that for every car in Queensland not powered by diesel it would be a fantastic contribution to making cleaner air. That is why the Australian Medical Association supports it so strongly. They know that in the cities where you have urban congestion it can help save lives by reducing the inhalation of particulates.

We know that farmers are begging for a floor price. Sugarcane farmers are coming under more and more threat from the government as we speak. They need a floor price, which is why Brazil competes so heavily in ethanol. It is a wonderful policy objective that we can enforce, but it needs to be pushed by the government. We cannot passively sit back and hope that fuel companies play nice. They will not unless they are forced to adopt it and unless we tell drivers like we did when we changed from leaded petrol to unleaded petrol all those years ago. That was a much more abrupt adaptation for drivers and consumers around Queensland, but we did that because it was in the national interest. This is much more in the national interest than introducing unleaded petrol, but we are not forcing it on both sides of this House and federally. It was absolute nonsense saying that in Ingham the other day, because they voted against a mandate which is the catalyst for starting the uptake that is needed for investment. They voted against it in the federal parliament; then they say they support NQBE. We need to support investment and development in Queensland. We need this for the drivers and we need this to provide cleaner air, but it needs to be driven by the government.

Nilon, Mr D

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (7.27 pm): I will be talking about the story of Don Nilon, who passed away on 15 March. Don was a great old Labor man. Don was born on Wednesday, 26 August 1931 in Forbes, a small town in central New South Wales. His father, Francis Bede Nilon, who served in the 1st Light Horse in Gallipoli, married Margaret Harriet Casey and had 10 children. Of all 10 children Don was the last surviving sibling.

Don met Dorothy, and after moving to Sydney on 29 September 1951 they got married. They remained married for 67½ years. Their first child, Jim, is a very good friend of mine. I class Jim as a brother from a different mother. He was born on 3 July 1953. Don joined the ALP in 1957. He was one of the original 'true believers'. He was appointed as a volunteer director of the Australian Institute of Political Science and ran as a candidate in the seat of Macarthur in the 1961 and 1963 federal elections, on both occasions falling shy of the win. He constantly reminded us of that.

On 11 May 1966 Don and Dorothy welcomed their second child, Danielle. Don also commenced work as the state organiser for the New South Wales ALP. By 1971 the family had relocated to Rockhampton in Central Queensland. Don worked as a property officer with the Capricornia Regional Electricity Board and was admitted as an honorary member of the Australian Valuers Institute. Don developed an enormous cultural appreciation and affection for our first nation peoples throughout the course of his work. In his travels he monitored sacred sites and took pride in educating people about our first nations history.

In 1994, post retirement, Don served on the Capricornia community corrections board and spent a period of time administering the state government's community rent scheme in Rockhampton. Both Don and Dorothy formally retired to Lake Macquarie in 1996 and moved back to Queensland in 2005. Don was honoured with life membership in 2008. I was very proud to escort Don to get his life membership. Don Nilon was a fantastic man—a true believer. Former member for Greenslopes Gary Fenlon spoke highly of Don.

As a young man, as a political candidate I had a lot to do with Don. The first time I met Don was in Gregory before the 1989 election. The then AWU district secretary said to me, 'Come and have a beer with the candidate and his father.' When you live out west, a beer could be one gallon or 10. You did not know. I rolled home at four o'clock in the morning after hearing Don's many stories of being an organiser in New South Wales. The Nilons became very firm friends of the Saunders family. On behalf of my wife and my children I pass on my condolences to the Nilon family. As Don would say, vote early and vote often.

The House adjourned at 7.30 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Andrew, Bailey, Bates, Batt, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Boyce, Brown, Butcher, Costigan, Crandon, Crawford, Crisafulli, D'Ath, Dametto, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Frecklington, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Hart, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Janetzki, Jones, Katter, Kelly, King, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Lauga, Leahy, Linard, Lister, Lui, Lynham, Madden, Mander, McArdle, McDonald, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Mickelberg, Miles, Millar, Miller, Minnikin, Molhoek, Mullen, Nicholls, O'Connor, O'Rourke B, O'Rourke C, Palaszcuk, Pease, Pegg, Perrett, Pitt, Powell, Power, Pugh, Purdie, Richards, Robinson, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Simpson, Sorensen, Stevens, Stewart, Stuckey, Trad, Watts, Weir, Whiting, Wilson